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Leading lady
James Fenton reviews a biography of Eleonora Duse, the last of the great prima donna actresses
Game plan
How China is promoting itself in world sport

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr Raymond Trivass of Eccleston, St Helens, Lancashire, and Miss Barbara Goodall of Manchester each received £1,000. Portfolio list page 20; how to play, information service, back page

Submarine ordered to surface
A foreign submarine trapped in a Norwegian fishing boat's nets some miles off Stavanger was ordered to surface by a coast guard vessel that caught up. It was not a Nato submarine, the Norwegian Navy said.

Fast broken
The 10 "loyalist" hunger strikers in Magilligan prison in Northern Ireland accepted some food last night while negotiations continued over their separation from republican prisoners.

Lawyers' check
The Government is to grant the Law Society new powers in an administration of justice Bill next session to deal with solicitors guilty of bad work. Page 2

On view
President Chernenko appeared on Soviet television last night, dampening speculation about his health and authority. But again he looked frail. Page 6

Police horses
The Home Secretary has warned the Labour-controlled South Yorkshire Police Authority that its proposal to disband its mounted police section could breach the law. Page 2



Chad check
Colonel Gaddafi's promise to withdraw his Libyan forces from Chad will be monitored by French satellite and hundreds of observers from African states. Page 6

Yoko's millions
Yoko Ono, widow of the former Beatle John Lennon, was a surprise name in a list of the 400 richest Americans headed by the oilman Mr Gordon Getty with \$4.1 billion. Page 21

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Steel wants last chance to break into government

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, last night responded to party critics by giving himself one last chance to break through into government.

With increasing criticism of his low-key leadership, which contrasts starkly with Dr David Owen's current sky-high profile, Mr Steel was asked about his plans in a BBC television interview at the Liberal Assembly in Bournemouth.

He said: "I have done eight years now as party leader. I have every intention of going on to do the next election."

Mr Steel added that he would prefer to form an Alliance government with Dr Owen and the Social Democrats, but he would also accept the "fallback position" in which the Alliance would hold a balance of parliamentary power with another party.

"In either of these situations it would be extremely foolish of me to relinquish the leadership of the party when this is what I have been working towards all that time."

But he then added: "If I fail, if we didn't make a breakthrough, then I think the party itself would want to say, 'Well, you know, you've done it now for more than a decade. We ought really to be having a fresh think'. And I'd want a fresh think."

"I wouldn't want to commit myself to what we might be doing in 1988."

The leadership issue had been raised in Bournemouth yesterday by a fringe magazine, *Liberator*, which posed the question: "Should Steel go?"

The magazine, written and published by rank-and-file activists, said that Mr Steel was "tired and burnt-out" and offered a "racecard of potential successors".

Mr Alan Beith, a party whip, was even favourite; Mr Paddy Ashdown, "megastar" MP for Yeovil, was put at 3-1; Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West and "the thinking Liberals' Liberal" was given at 5-1; and Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro and "good for a laugh", was put at 10-1.

Mr Steel dismissed the article. He told television interviewers: "I think they must have got upset because I cancelled my subscription to that rag last year. I don't take it very seriously."

Nevertheless, he is conscious of the need to reassure delegates with the firm smack of determined leadership this week. He said in an interview with ITN: "I always have to reassess my authority at assemblies. It's an annual ritual and I expect I'll have to do the same again this time."

Mr Steel's dilemma was summed up by Mr Malcolm Bruce, the MP for Gordon, who said: "If David Steel takes a high profile he's a one-man band, if he takes a low profile he's overshadowed by David Owen."

But the Alliance also faces a leadership problem. Mr Penhaligon said yesterday that it needed a clear leader, a prime minister-in-waiting, before the next election.

Mr Steel said: "I'm not sure that he's right, but there are quite a lot of colleagues who feel that and I think that's a matter which the two parties ought to discuss."

He said that he and David Owen had made the position clear. "We think we can work well together as leaders of the Alliance. If others think differently, well they must discuss it among themselves."

Liberal assembly reports and Geoffrey Smith, page 4

Fears for trade as docks strike ends

By Barry Clement, Labour Reporter

Dockers' leaders yesterday called off the three-week-old national stoppage and threatened disciplinary action against workers who defied the strike call.

The decision was taken at a stormy meeting of 100 port delegates in London after a recommendation to end the strike by the 24 members of the national docks and waterways committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Many dockers' representatives felt that the union had capitulated by accepting an agreement which simply reaffirmed the status quo at Hunterston Terminal on the Clyde, the issue which started the strike.

But the delegates voted by seventy-six to eight with six abstentions to accept the deal amid continuing signs of grass-roots opposition to the action.

Employers greeted the news with considerable relief, but gave a warning that striking ports could have suffered permanent damage because trade may be switched to other docks.

At the height of the stoppage the second in two months - 8,750 registered dockers stopped work with 2,800 defying their union's instruction. Mr John Connolly, national docks officer of the TGWU, admitted that he was disappointed with the response to the call for action.

Some strikers reported for work yesterday and ports are expected to be back to normal today. Bristol may suffer continuing disruption because of a local dispute.

The call for disciplinary action is unlikely to lead to expulsions from the union because of the scale of the anti-strike rebellion. Fines may be imposed for crossing picket lines, but there is no intention to take more draconian measures.

The union has effectively bowed to the British Steel Corporation's insistence that 22,500 tonnes of coal be imported at Hunterston for use at the Ravenscraig steelworks. The agreement states that for the first four weeks 18,000 tonnes will be allowed in, during the second four weeks 20,000 tonnes and thereafter 22,500 tonnes. Dockers' leaders had originally sought to impose a quota of 18,000 tonnes in support of the miners' strike.

Port workers backed all coal imports after negotiations with the corporation broke down. The strike started because BSC brought in a coal ship with the help of unregistered labour.

Part of the settlement is that the corporation has reiterated its assurance it gave the transport workers' union on May 16 that all work normally carried out by registered dockers at Hunterston will be offered to them first.

But it refused to guarantee that the work - involving the tying up of ships and cleaning of holds - will not be contracted out if the registered workers are unable to do it. Such a guarantee formed one of the main planks of union demands.

Six on Booker short list under starter's orders

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

The short list for the Booker McConnell prize for fiction, Britain's most valuable literary award, was announced last night.

The six books are all first-class novels, and it would be no laughing-stock for any of them to win the Booker: this has by no means always been the case in the past.

The favourite in literary gossip is Ballard's *Empire of the Sins*. Literary chatter in these matters is less reliable as a method of forecasting the winner than a pin and shut eyes for picking horses.

The six finalist books are all determinedly intelligent and from the higher fiction, as fits the selection of a panel chaired by the recently retired Professor of Modern History at Oxford. Five of the six are either very funny or agreeably humorous, also convenient for a bench picked by Professor Richard Cocks.

There are some surprising outsiders: there always are. But the bookies must have made a packet from the fact that neither Kingsley nor Martin Amis are on the short list.

The six finalist authors, in alphabetical order, are: J G BALLARD for *Empire of the Sins* (Gollancz): life in a Japanese internment camp, seen through the eyes of a young boy, reflects Ballard's own war-time experience. And like his science fiction, it carries an apocalyptic vision.

JULIAN BARNES for *Flaubert's Parrot* (Cape): about both Flaubert and parrots, and a great deal of other assorted fact and fiction. The enigmatic narrator is a retired English doctor, whose secrets are slowly revealed.

ANITA BROOKNER for *Hôtel du Lac* (Cape): a romantic novelist and spinster is in disgrace and banished to the shores of Lake Geneva until she comes to her senses from some mysterious crime.

ANITA DESAI for *In Custody* (Heinemann): the yearnings and calamities of a small-town scholar in the north of India, who sees a way to escape when he is asked to interview a great Urdu poet for a literary magazine.

PENELOPE LIVELY for *According to Mark* (Heinemann): a summer obsession, seen from three sides of the triangle, literary detective story which moves from Dorset to the Dordogne, an insider's view of the art of the biographer.

DAVID LODGE for *Small World* (Secker & Warburg): a very funny academic romance, in which some of the author's characters from *Changing Places* reappear, set in the modern world of continual learned conferences.

Professor Cobb will announce the £15,000 winner at a dinner at the Guildhall on October 16. After last year's embarrassing scenes, the dinner will be televised by Channel Four instead of the BBC.



Defector's tale: Mr Bitov telling the Moscow press conference yesterday of his adventures in Britain

Crisis? What crisis? says Lawson

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, flew out of the country yesterday denying there was a financial crisis as the pound fell to new depths against the surging dollar.

"There's no crisis," Mr Lawson said in response to questions. He was leaving Heathrow airport for talks with fellow finance ministers at a series of financial meetings in Toronto and Washington.

At one point the pound was down to a new low of \$1.2160 yesterday and was tumbling against other currencies under the weight of heavy speculative selling. But it recovered part of its losses after news of the dockers' return to work was also helped by profit-taking in the dollar.

Sterling closed in London down 95 points at \$1.2320. Its effective value against a basket of currencies fell 0.6 to 76.4 per cent of its 1975 level, having been down to 76 at midday.

Mr Lawson, whose remark yesterday recalled the comment of the former Labour Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, in 1979, refused to comment on whether the Government planned to take any action over the pound.

Government officials are putting most of the blame on the strength of the dollar and the City, which has remained calm, believes that the Government is determined to avoid a rise in interest rates.

With all oil priced in US dollars the oil industry is already preparing for a further round of petrol price increases if the exchange rate remains at its present level until the weekend (David Young writes).

One of the leading petrol companies said last night that prices may have to be put up again before then.

The present wave of petrol price increases - Esso, Shell and Mobil yesterday followed BP in reducing dealers' subsidies and effectively increased prices by up to 7p a gallon - has already been counteracted by the continuing fall in the pound against the dollar.

Found at new low, page 21

TUC to study £115,000 plea for miners' rescue

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the TUC are meeting later this week to formalize plans for a financial "rescue" of the National Union of Mineworkers so that the pit strike, now in its twenty-eighth week, can continue indefinitely.

The miners' union told Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, that it needs £115,000 a week to continue its normal operations, and all 98 affiliated unions will be asked to raise cash from their 10 million members to ensure that the miners' organization does not go under.

A draft circular to unions along those lines is understood to have been prepared for the TUC's "inner Cabinet", its finance and general purposes committee, which meets on Friday to consider how best to implement a congress resolution promising "total support".

Steel union leaders meet the same day to determine what backing they are prepared to give to the miners' union, but the level of support is likely to be much less than the miners are seeking.

After the power supply unions indicated their unwillingness to take supportive industrial action two days ago, the TUC steel industry committee is expected to take a similarly non-committal line.

Mr David Bassett, one of the TUC's "three wise men" who are monitoring peace moves in the mining dispute, said yesterday: "There is no grand plan for a great escalation of industrial action throughout the country."

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Francis Pym, page 10
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Britain rejects kidnapping charge by Russian

Mr Oleg Bitov, the Soviet journalist who defected to the West a year ago, turned up again in Moscow yesterday and said he had been kidnapped and tortured by the British Secret Service (Henry Stanhope writes).

It was the first time he had been seen in public since he disappeared from his London home last month, leaving his Toyota car parked near the Soviet embassy and \$40,000 in the bank.

Looking tired and drawn, the foreign cultural editor of Moscow's *Literary Gazette* told a packed press conference that he had been knocked unconscious from behind while covering last year's Venice Film Festival for his journal and smuggled to Britain, heavily sedated with drugs.

The names of British agents, the addresses and telephone numbers of "safe houses" used by the security services, spilled out in a lurid account which accused his "captors" of violence, blackmail and bribery during his one year in Britain.

But a home Office statement dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and added "Mr Bitov came to Britain entirely of his own free will."

Mr Bitov, aged 52, is thought to have returned to Moscow after doing a deal with the Soviet embassy in London, because he missed his wife Ludmilla and daughter Xenia, 15, who were barred by the Russians from joining him. According to friends he is also suffering from cancer.

The Foreign Office summoned in London Mr Nikolai Postolyagin, the Soviet Charge d'Affaires, last night to protest at the Moscow press conference. Mr Postolyagin undertook to report the protest to his government.

Cool, clear but under strain

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Lewes road, he named the agents as Colonel George Harland, department chief, and Lieutenant-Colonel James Westall, who he said was his case officer, or guardian, and had since been promoted.

They were assisted, he said, by Michael Wilmont, Peter Haylor, described as intelligence officers, a Captain Charles MacNaught, a departmental clerk called Rose Prince and a man named as Peter Joy, who he said had overseen his literary activity in the West. Mr Bitov gave two telephone numbers which he said belonged to British Intelligence. He appeared vague about his alleged captors, however, and did not say to which branch of intelligence services they belonged.

He gave the addresses of two safe houses where he was allegedly held under permanent surveillance by his case officer: Flat 4, 34 Redcliffe Square, Earls Court, and 118 Sheen Court, Richmond, Surrey, adding that he could give other names and addresses but chose not to do so.

Mr Bitov's Toyota car was found abandoned near the Soviet Embassy. He also left about £40,000 in a London bank account. When *The Times* made inquiries in Moscow last week Mr Igor Belyaev, foreign editor of the *Literary Gazette*, said he had no news of Mr Bitov's whereabouts.

At his press conference yesterday, staged by the Novosti press agency under the auspices of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Mr Bitov looked under strain. He said he returned to the Soviet Union three weeks ago, but when asked to confirm that he had done so voluntarily he refused to give details, saying they would appear in future articles by him in the *Literary Gazette*.

He spoke coolly and clearly from a prepared text and answered questions, but had a pasty complexion with signs of exhaustion around the eyes.

The press conference was televised and broadcast on Moscow Radio. Mr Bitov, flanked by officials from Novosti and his own paper, said he had gained the full trust of his captors and been allowed to move around at will two months before he actually returned to Russia.

Mr Bitov said he had been held captive by agents of British Intelligence and had initially been interrogated at an Army barracks near Brighton on the

had played a double game, but had not had contact with the Soviet Embassy in London. When Mr Bitov first defected the *Literary Gazette* claimed he had been kidnapped, but was later made to appear foolish when he surfaced in London to condemn the increasingly repressive cultural climate in the Soviet Union.

Yesterday Mr Bitov said his defection had been passed off as the greatest victory of the British Secret Services since the Second World War, with fantastic allegations about the capture of a Soviet spy supererogated by a beautiful British girl.

Western agents' Operation Bitov

But in the end stories about him in the British press had represented him as a Soviet intellectual who had successfully carried out his secret ambition to escape to the free world. He had been obliged to provide anti-Soviet disclosures as part of a "foul propaganda campaign". Mr Bitov said he was "just a journalist", although he did not explain why in that case the Italian and British secret services should have kidnapped and held him.

Mr Bitov told the press conference he had been sent by his paper to cover the Venice Film Festival in September last year. With "incredible cynicism" Western agents had carried out "Operation Bitov", but had failed to "make a lieutenant general" out of him.

They had found it was not so simple to buy him, and "threats of violence and subtle means of pressure cannot bring a Soviet man to his knees".

Returning to the hotel late on the night of 8 September he had stepped forward into the darkness of his room "only to receive a terrible blow on the back of my head". His memories of what happened next were vague, Mr Bitov said, because when he came to the next morning he was deprived of willpower and memory and his movements were uncoordinated.

Despite his semi-conscious state he recalled an Italian Continued on back page, col 8

Ploy to gain captors' trust

Yesterday, however, Mr Belyaev admitted he had known about Mr Bitov's return three weeks ago. He said he did not know what post Mr Bitov would now occupy.

Mr Bitov described his experience in the West as "nightmarish captivity", claiming he had been given mind-bending drugs. His treatment had recalled Nazi cruelties. He admitted he had written articles for the *Sunday Telegraph* on Soviet censorship, but this had been a ploy to gain the confidence of his captors.

He had had no friends except for intelligence agents. "My only friends were my tape recorder and my Toyota". He

Balloonist breaks foot and record

Nice (Reuters) - The balloon navigator, Colonel Joe Kittinger, broke a foot upon landing in Italy after a record-making transatlantic crossing in his airship, the Rosie O'Grady, hospital sources said here yesterday.

Colonel Kittinger aged 56, had been flown by helicopter to Nice and admitted to Saint-Roch Hospital less than three hours after he set down outside the Italian Riviera town of Savona yesterday afternoon.

Italian air traffic controllers described the arrival of the helium-filled Rosie O'Grady as a perfect landing.

The aviator was picked up by one of the French helicopters which tailed him across the Italian border in the last stages of his journey from Maine, on the US eastern seaboard.



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New powers for Law Society on complaints about solicitors

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to grant the Law Society new powers in an administration of justice Bill next session to deal with solicitors who are guilty of bad professional work.

The extent of the new powers has been agreed in talks between the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Law Society, which has long felt it was powerless to deal with inefficiency or incompetence that stops short of professional negligence.

The Bill will contain provisions enabling the society to order solicitors to do work again, to order them to forfeit all or part of their fees and to attach conditions to practising certificates, in cases where solicitors' work falls short of the accepted standards.

Under the Bill, expected in the Queen's Speech, the solicitors' disciplinary tribunal will also assume power to remove from a solicitor the right to undertake legal aid work. This at present lies with the legal aid complaints tribunal which is expected to be wound up.

The legal ombudsman, Major-General John Allen, the Lay Observer, who monitors the society's handling of complaints against solicitors, has twice called for the society to be

given powers to tackle bad professional work. Four years ago, such powers were also recommended by the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

At present, clients who suffer delays, inconvenience and inefficiency have no remedy. The Law Society deals only with cases where clients are the victims of professional negligence, which can be referred to the solicitors' disciplinary tribunal with its powers to strike off.

In the wake of the Glanville Davies affair last autumn, the case of a former council member who was struck off for overcharging a client by £131,000, the society has taken steps to improve the complaints procedures.

The Law Society is to appoint today its own solicitor to take over the running of a company in Cornwall after a five-day investigation by accountants made when the firm's solicitor disappeared.

The solicitor, Mr James Double, aged 35, a former policeman, failed to return to his practice after a holiday in Ibiza.

The society investigated at the request of Mr Tony Godden, the managing clerk of the firm, Doubles.

Thatcher Belgrano denial supported

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, former Chief of the Defence Staff and a member of the war Cabinet during the Falklands war, said yesterday that the Prime Minister was telling the truth in saying that he knew nothing of the Peruvian peace proposals until after the General Belgrano was sunk on May 2, 1982.

Lord Lewin was appearing in a Thames Television programme about the sinking, during which a tape-recording was played of an interview by a journalist with Mr Alexander Haig, the former American Secretary of State. In it he said that the British Ambassador in Lima was with President Belaunde of Peru as he negotiated the telephone with Mr Haig, and was reporting back to London.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP

for Linlithgow, who was also on the programme and always claimed that the Belgrano was sunk to ensure the failure of the Peruvian initiative, described the recording as "staggering new evidence" which showed that the Prime Minister's statement that the first indications of the Peruvian peace proposals reached London three hours after the Belgrano was sunk could not be true.

But Lord Lewin said: "Mrs Thatcher is telling the truth. She did not know anything at all about the Peruvian peace proposals until after midnight that night after the Belgrano was sunk." He did not suggest that Mr Haig was lying, but the memory was notoriously fickle.

He added that even if they had known something about the peace talks in his view it would have made no difference

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Concert debut: Jane Glover rehearsing with the London Mozart Players yesterday for her inaugural concert today as artistic director of the orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. (Photograph: John Voss).

State firms proposal condemned

By Our Political Reporter

The Government's proposals to tighten ministerial control of the nationalized industries were condemned yesterday by Mr Peter Shore, the Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, as an attempt to crush their independence while at the same time keeping Parliament out of their affairs.

Mr Shore said the idea behind the plan seemed to be to transfer powers from board members back to ministers. If this had been accompanied by a corresponding increase in their accountability to Parliament there would have been something to the proposals, but what was being put forward was "just not on", he said.

Mr Shore said that the Cabinet ministers who were in charge of the nationalized industries were not equipped or competent to run them.

"I do not think it makes sense to try to run the nationalized industries from the minister's private office."

There was a marked reluctance among ministers yesterday to comment on the proposed new legislation, revealed in a leaked copy of a letter from Mr James Driscoll, director of the Nationalized Industries' Chairman's Group, to his colleagues.

Although Whitehall sources continued to insist yesterday that the proposed Bill would be essentially a tidying-up operation, bringing up to date and codifying various pieces of legislation affecting the state industries, it was accepted that the introduction of powers for ministers to hire and fire board members would be a new departure.

It was also accepted that such proposals were not popular with the state industry chairman and may indeed have inspired the leak of Mr Driscoll's letter.

The Treasury confirmed yesterday that consultation on a proposed Bill had been taking place.

Chairmen fear interference by ministers

Most of Britain's nationalized industry chairmen would probably express extreme disquiet at what many see as "creeping politicization" of their industries under the terms of the proposed Treasury legislation (Our Industrial Correspondent writes).

Most fear that in spite of the Government's desire to see state corporations run on strict commercial lines, the proposals would lead to greater centralized interference and place their operations under the direct control of ministers.

There is also clear concern among the chairmen that a single Act replacing the 40 existing statutes governing the activities of nationalized industries would distance them from direct parliamentary scrutiny and control and strengthen an individual minister's powers.

The proposal to give ministers more power to dismiss board members and lay down their terms of appointment is also worrying the chairmen. The result, it is said, could be to develop "tame" boards whose members simply do as they are told, or to create a whole network of political appointments.

Patients in the new Park Lane Special Hospital, at Maghull, near Liverpool, which houses some of Britain's most dangerous psychiatric patients, were allowed to speak to the press yesterday. Peter Davenport reports.

are the journalists. It looked like a university seminar until you remembered why the men like "David" were there.

"People have got to understand," David said, "that there is a certain percentage of society, of people, who will offend and we are just a small part of that section."

"We have problems and people have got to accept that it is being too idealistic to expect 100 per cent behaviour all the time."

"Edward" is a blue driver kept to Park Lane after killing

several people when he suffered a mental breakdown while behind the wheel. Clearly agitated, he maintained that in spite of his four-and-a-half years in special hospitals no one had found any reason why he should still be there.

A middle-aged patient who chose not to give his name or the reason why he was there was upset about media coverage.

"When someone absconds, the stories always say the place is full of murderers, rapists or mentally ill. Well, we're not all murderers or rapists but we all

Police chiefs resist cuts Sale of horses may be illegal

By Michael Horsnell

The Home Secretary yesterday warned the Labour-controlled South Yorkshire police authority that its controversial plan to sell police horses used to control miners' pickets could be in breach of the Police Act, 1964.

Mr Leon Brittan said he viewed with grave concern the proposal to disband the area's mounted police section and halve the police dog unit, which has 34 dogs.

In spite of the warning, the Labour group executive, which has been accused of acting vindictively in support of the miners, agreed yesterday to the recommendation of the police committee to disband the mounted branch.

But the executive decided to defer the implementation of the decision until a meeting between Mr Brittan and Mr George Moore, chairman of the police authority.

This will take place in London on September 25, and followed by a full meeting of the county council the next day.

As the controversy intensified yesterday, up to a dozen of the threatened horses were ridden into action to protect 170 policemen from 4,000 angry pickets who tried to stop eight miners getting into work at Kiveton Colliery, near Rotherham.

The police faced a barrage of missiles, including rocks, bags of paint stripper, an animal bladder filled with urine, and used contraceptives, but managed to hold back the pickets.

The horses, which the authority wants to sell as part of what it says is a cost-cutting exercise to pay for policing the dispute, were twice brought in at walking pace.

Chief Supt John Nesbit, who was at the scene, said: "There was a concerted push by the

pickets and, without the horses, we would not have been able to hold the line with the number of officers on duty."

Mr Peter Wright, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, who is resisting the instruction to sell the 18 horses in the mounted section, is understood to have been in close touch with the Home Office through the inspectors of Constabulary.

In a message to Mr John Harris, chief executive of the county council, the Home Secretary said he had been advised by the inspectors of Constabulary that the moves against the mounted police and dogs sections would be "gravely detrimental to the efficiency of the force and that, in present circumstances, they would severely reduce the force's ability to discharge its responsibilities."

Because of the implications for the discharge of the authority's duties under the Police Act, the Home Secretary asked the authority to reconsider its plans and pointed out that he reserved the right to take whatever action was necessary under his own duty under the Act.

But the Home Office was unable to say last night what legal action might be open to Mr Brittan if the authority failed to comply.

Mr Moore said: "We have been pleading for a meeting with Mr Brittan for the past three months and it has taken the issue over the horses and dogs units to persuade him to make up his mind. In view of the seriousness of the situation, the Labour group looks forward to the meeting in order to take what action is necessary in the face of the financial situation."

The group has asked the chief constable to recommend ways of saving the £1.25m it has cost the authority to police the miners' dispute in the area, though the disbanding of the mounted unit was its own suggestion.

The future of the horses, if they are sold, remained uncertain, although police sources said they were most likely to be sold to other forces.

The Home Secretary later met a delegation of nine from the Greater Manchester Police Authority protesting about the high cost of its commitment to policing the strike.



Under threat: police horses on duty at Sheffield United's football ground last Saturday.

Solid fuel oil added to coal to save stocks

By David Young

Heavy fuel oil is being added to coal being burnt in the Central Electricity Generating Board's coal-fired power stations as part of a drive to extend the life of coal stocks at the stations well into next year.

Normally small quantities of heavy fuel oil are added to the coal furnaces to stabilize heat output. However, the board is understood to be increasing oil deliveries to the coal-fired power stations and feeding it into the furnaces at higher than normal levels.

The board yesterday refused to comment, its policy during the miners' dispute has been to say that coal stocks are adequate, but it has admitted that stocks rose early this month as deliveries from working pits in the Midlands arrived at power stations and oil and nuclear power stations bore the brunt of electricity demand.

● Nine out of 10 miners

reported for work in some South Yorkshire collieries yesterday as the drift back to the pits continued in the county. The day shift attendance totalled 3,412, nearly 200 up on the previous day.

A National Coal Board spokesman said: "Ninety-two per cent of miners reported for work at Silverdale colliery, 90 per cent at Florence and a record 84 per cent at Holditch colliery."

● More violence flared in the South Yorkshire coalfield yesterday, ending in 18 arrests. The homes of two working miners were besieged by strikers and police were pelted with stones and "bombs" of a corrosive fluid.

In spite of a picket of an estimated 3,700 men, police escorted eight miners to work at Kiveton Park colliery, near Rotherham.

Trade unionists returning to Labour fold

By Our Political Reporter

The Labour Party is recovering its traditional backing among trade unionists, although fewer than half would support it at a general election, according to an opinion poll carried out by *The Times* for MORI.

Fewer than four in 10 trade unionists backed Labour at the 1983 general election, but in the poll, carried out earlier this month, 48 per cent of trade unionists said they would vote Labour (a figure similar to that which supported the party at the 1979 election) 30 per cent Conservative and 19 per cent Alliance.

The two main parties approach their annual conferences with the Conservatives holding a one per cent lead over Labour. The poll, conducted between September 6-10 and involving 1,810 voters in 170 constituencies throughout Britain, showed the Conservatives with 40 per cent support, Labour 39

per cent and the Alliance with 19 per cent.

Under Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour has improved from its 28 per cent showing in June, 1983, and the Alliance has fallen from 26 per cent. Despite an uncomfortable year, the Conservatives have dropped only four points.

The Conservatives hold a 5 per cent lead among women voters. Labour a 2 per cent lead among men.

In the 18-24 age group Labour has a 7 per cent lead, the Conservatives hold a 5 per cent lead among people aged over 45, which widens to over 10 per cent among those aged over 65.

Dr David Owen's efforts to maintain a separate identity for the Social Democratic Party appear to be having a limited effect on the voters.

©Times Newspapers Limited/MORI

Sale goes through of Black Mountain

The Black Mountain in Dyfed was sold yesterday for a price believed to be about £500,000 after an extraordinary legal wrangle.

The sale of the 22,325-acre mountain went ahead after the High Court set aside an order postponing it.

After bidding failed to reach the £455,000 reserve price at the Kensington Hilton hotel in London, the auctioneers withdrew the mountain from sale. Then two prospective buyers came forward and separate negotiations continued behind closed doors.

Half an hour later the auctioneer, Mr Robin Cripp, of Barnard Marcus, disclosed that a sale had been agreed. But the price and the name of the buyer was kept secret. Mr Cripp said: "All I can say is that the buyer is British."

The sale of the Black Mountain was halted on Monday when the Egyptian millionaire, Mr Onay Nathan, obtained a court order preventing auctioneers from disposing of the peak.

Mr Nathan had bid successfully for the mountain estate in April but the deal fell through. Mr Nathan's agent claimed that Mr Nathan was unable to complete the purchase.

The seller, Mr Brian Randall, a London-based chartered engineer, bought the property from the Cadwor Estate for £285,000 a year ago.

Since then, Mr Nathan's bid, mineral deposits, including an estimated 100,000 tons of coal, have been discovered on the land. The National Coal Board and the National Trust were understood to have been interested in buying the mountain.

Aesop edition fetches £15,000

The first printed edition of *Aesop's Fables* was sold in London for £15,000 yesterday. The book, printed in Basle in 1501 with 194 woodcuts, was the most expensive item in the first part of the sale of the huge collection of the London collector Mr W. R. Jewdine by Bloomsbury Book Auctions, who died earlier this year.

The auction of fifteenth and sixteenth century editions fetched a total of £250,000, a sum expected to be equalled when Bloomsbury sells the remainder of the collection, covering the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, on September 29.

Man for trial on manor charge

Richard Haynes, aged 30, was yesterday committed in custody to Reading Crown Court for trial accused of burglary at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in May last year.

He is also charged with escaping from Norwich Prison; causing grievous bodily harm to two police officers with intent to resist arrest; escaping from a police station; burgling three chemist's shops; and possession of heroin with intent to supply.

Ferry fares investigation

The office of Fair Trading is to refer two ferry operators to the Restrictive Practices Court over fares on two passenger/cargo ferry routes between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain.

The OFT director, Sir Gordon Borrie, has confirmed that investigations have been made into the identical fares charged in 1982 on the ostensibly competing Townsend Thoresen and Sealink services between Larne and the Scottish ports of Cairnryan and Stranraer.

Railway track vandal jailed

Brendan Bowman, aged 24, who was living rough by the track near Rugby, Warwickshire, was sentenced to four months in prison for a rail on the Manchester to London line and levered it four inches out of line using a crowbar. Warwick Crown Court was told yesterday.

He put the lives of passengers at risk by his mindless vandalism because he was bored, the court heard. Bowman was jailed for four years after admitting damaging the railway joint.

Car parts firm cuts 1,000 jobs

Automotive Products, one of Britain's leading car components manufacturers is to shed a thousand jobs, mostly a quarter of its workforce. The company, which employs 4,500 people manufacturing clutches, brakes and steering systems, say most of the redundancies will be at Leamington and Banbury plants but three smaller factories in the Birmingham area will also be affected.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Belgium 25, Canada \$25, France 25, Germany 25, Hong Kong \$25, India 25, Japan 25, New Zealand \$25, Norway 25, Portugal 25, Singapore 25, South Africa 25, Sweden 25, Switzerland 25, Taiwan 25, Thailand 25, USA \$25, West Germany 25, Yugoslavia 25.

Closure of second plant sought

By Patricia Clough

An MP called yesterday for the closure of a Re-Chem International waste-processing plant near Pontypool, which is blamed by local residents for diseased and dying animals and health complaints in humans.

The demand by Mr Leo Abse (Labour, Torfaen) comes after Monday's announcement of the closure of another plant owned by Re-Chem at Bonnybridge, Central Scotland. Re-Chem said the reasons were financial and strongly denied that the decision was influenced by allegations that the plant was releasing highly-toxic dioxins into the environment.

In a letter to Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Abse asked for the plant at New Inn, south of Pontypool, to be closed pending a public inquiry to determine whether it was safe.

He also asked Mr Edwards to prevent the company diverting dangerous toxic wastes from Bonnybridge for processing at New Inn.

Mr Colin Haines, a farmer who lives about five miles from the New Inn plant, has complained that 44 sheep died before lambing, 77 wasted away and his Charolais cows contracted hideous sores, wasted away and died. He says three other farmers in the area have similar difficulties which are akin to those of farmers at Bonnybridge.

Local people also have complained of dizziness, stiff joints, nose-bleeds and cold symptoms even in summer.

Parliamentary test results have cleared Re-Chem International's South Wales plant of polluting soil in the local area, the company claimed yesterday.

Teacher sold killer drug

An A level teacher at an Oxford tutorial college dealt in heroin which killed a man Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday. Jane Wilson, aged 31, of Bardwell Road, Oxford, and her husband Christopher, aged 29, both admitted using, possessing and supplying heroin and cannabis.

Mr Desmond Fennell, the recorder, said he blamed Wilson's husband for most of their offences. He ordered her to carry out 240 hours community service. Her husband was given a two-year jail sentence, 12 months of which were suspended.

Family break-up rather than TV, blamed for child delinquency

By Tony Summatt

Instability and violence in family life, not on television, is to blame for increasing numbers of young people in trouble with the law, according to a report published yesterday.

In his introduction to the annual *Children Today* report compiled by the National Children's Home, its chairman, Lord Tonypan, formerly Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, writes: "The figures tell an appalling tale of suffering, of children from unsatisfactory home conditions and of children deprived both of opportunity and of love."

On the question of television, the report quotes recent findings suggesting little support for the idea that television has replaced more traditional leisure pursuits.

On the contrary "it has been found that television enlarged the vocabulary of children, as well as increasing the range of subjects and activities in which they became interested."

The causal connexion between television violence and violent behaviour in children is

dismissed as "fairly weak" and possibly limited to children who were more than naturally aggressive in the first place.

Studies quoted "suggested that a disturbed family relationship was a much more likely precursor of delinquency than was the act of watching violence."

The report notes that there are 159,000 divorces a year in Britain affecting 170,000 children, 42,000 of them under five years old and 113,000 under 11. Many parents themselves are virtually children: 70,000 divorces last year involved marriages where one partner was less than 20 years old at the time of the wedding.

A third of the 90,000 illegitimate births in England and Wales each year (almost a sixth of all births) are to mothers under 20, outnumbering the legitimate births in that age group by about 2,000. Of 136,000 legal abortions each year in Britain, more than 33,000 are to girls aged 16 to 19.

Launching the report in the absence of Lord Tonypan, who has been ill, Mr Len

Murray, former general secretary of the TUC and the new vice-president of the National Children's Home, said the statistics in the report were "throbbed with the pain of humanity" set against a background of unemployment.

"The report notes that more than a quarter of the children in Britain, 3,700,000, are living in low-income families, with almost half of those on or below supplementary benefit level."

There are about 20,000 children in care awaiting adoption, few of whom can hope to get out before they are 18, after six months in care the chance of returning to their natural families is only one in four. Adoptions have declined in the past 10 years from 23,000 to 11,000 annually.

An eighth of all families with children are one-parent families; since 1981 the number of children with one parent has increased from one million to 1,600,000.

Children Today, 1984 edition, (National Children's Home, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD).



Mr Len Murray playing with children from the National Children's Home project in London yesterday before presenting the report (Photograph: John Manning)

Jim Fixx 'died of addiction to jogging'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The world's leading advocate of jogging, Mr Jim Fixx, ran himself to death because he had become addicted to the exercise, according to medical specialists.

Mr Fixx, author of the best-selling *Complete Book of Running*, died on July 20 of a heart attack while on his daily run in the United States. He was 52.

He had been running about 10 miles a day since the age of 35, when he was overweight and smoking 40 cigarettes a day. But according to Dr Edward Cole, former medical director of the New York City marathon, Mr Fixx was one of a group of "hard-core" running addicts.

"He ran himself to death. It could happen to anybody who is immediately committed to jogging," Dr Cole says in a programme in the Yorkshire Television series, *Where there's Life*, broadcast on independent television tonight.

Last week Dr Bruce Davies, of the department of human kinetics at Salford University, said that people were dying as a result of taking badly prescribed exercise.

Dr Cole says: "There is a small group of people who never learn. They are the hard-core addicts, brutal taskmasters to themselves."

In the same programme, an American cardiologist, Dr George Sheen, says: "There are days when your body doesn't want to go out and run. Jim Fixx had the warning signals of chest pain but he tried to run through them. He should have paid attention to his body, not his mind."

Dr Davies told the annual conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science: "Exercise is a drug, it acts like a drug and it has a profound influence on the mind and body."

Armed raids by Stock Exchange member

A member of the Stock Exchange developed a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality change and carried out two armed raids, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Andrew Lerner, aged 26, formerly of Morley Crescent, Edgware, North West London, and now of Hove Park Way, Hove, East Sussex, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Judge Hazan, QC, told him: "To you must belong the very dubious distinction of being the first member of the Stock Exchange, and I do hope the last, to appear in this court on such grave charges."

Mrs Rosamond Keating, for the prosecution, said Lerner took to crime to try to repay £12,000 he had misappropriated from the City stockbroker firm for which he worked.

He pleaded guilty to stealing a pistol and ammunition from the Stock Exchange Gun Club, attempting to rob a woman in Mill Hill, North West London, and using the pistol during a £13,000 burglary at the home of a woman in Hendon, North West London.

Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, for the defence, said Lerner had developed a serious "Jekyll and Hyde" personality change.

Judge's warning on video nasties

David Hamilton-Grant, aged 45, a director of Marylebone, London, had his 18-month sentence reduced to 12, with six months suspended, by the Court of Appeal yesterday after his conviction for having an obscene video, *Nightmares in a Damaged Brain*, for gain.

Lord Justice O'Connor issued a warning that if those in senior company positions were caught organizing and making money out of a trade recognized as being a disturbing feature of society, courts would deal harshly with them.

Hitch in cheap air fares to Germany

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

A new cheap air fares package between Britain and West Germany is in danger of collapse, a few days before it is due to come into operation.

Hundreds of passengers who have already booked flights from October may be disappointed, because the British and West German Governments have still not agreed on the role to be played by British Caledonian.

In a virtual replay of the Anglo-Dutch fracas earlier this year, the West German Government has approved a range of heavily restricted cheap fares from British Airways and Lufthansa, but has refused British Caledonian's attempt to offer similar fares without the restrictions.

The British Government, which supports British Caledonian in the general interest of cheaper fares and more competition on European routes, has retaliated by refusing the British Airways and Luf-

thansa fares-until overall agreement has been reached.

The Anglo-Dutch dispute was eventually resolved after a meeting between Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, and the opposite number in The Netherlands, but so far no ministerial meetings are planned in the Anglo-German dispute.

British Airways and Lufthansa are offering about a third off cheap returns to a range of destinations: £55 London to Düsseldorf/Cologne (was £87); £66 to Bremen (was £103); £69 to Frankfurt (was £108); £74 to Hamburg (was £115); £75 to Stuttgart (was £117); £88 to Munich (was £137); and £97 to Berlin (was £154).

Several hundred passengers have already booked flights, subject to government approval of the fares. They must book at least 14 days in advance, and spend the weekend at their destination.

Man in ward is charged with murder

A man recovering from gunshot wounds was charged in hospital yesterday with murdering a police constable and with the attempted murder of a sergeant.

A private ward at Essex County Hospital, Colchester, will be turned into a court today for the first hearing. Colin Richards, aged 35, of Sandpit Lane, South Weald, Brentwood, Essex, was charged with murdering Police Constable Brian Bishop, aged 37, the attempted murder of Sergeant Mervyn Fairweather, aged 39; robbery of the post office at Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex; and assault with intent to rob at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, all on August 22.

Richards was further charged with robbery of the Woolwich Building Society, Chelmsford, Essex, on August 27, 1982; robbery of Lloyds Bank, Romford, Essex, on March 1, 1983; and possession of a firearm at Romford on that date with intent to endanger life.

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Women's fight for job equality

By Patricia Clough

"You must be lesbian. Normal women don't do it." "You are only doing this to find a husband." "You should be at home having babies."

Those remarks greeted trained women carpenters when they sought jobs or started work with men.

They were published yesterday by the Women's National Commission, a government advisory body with a long list of proposals to combat prejudice, and improve women's training and opportunities in non-traditional fields.

The commission criticized

the Government's policy of improving training for all and giving "equal access" for men and women. "The result is a training policy for men and a dead end for women", it said.

Special attention should be given to the specific problems of women who have probably not been encouraged to take the right subjects at school, work part-time or need retraining after child-rearing.

It urged unions, employers, government bodies, parents and educational institutions to fight prejudice and encourage women to branch out into new fields,

particularly the new technological industries.

The commission's report, and a survey published simultaneously by the Industrial Society, rejected a long-standing prejudice by declaring that it is financially sound for firms to encourage women by promotion and allowing for childbirth breaks.

The Other Half of Our Future (Women's National Commission, Cabinet Office, London SW1). *Jobs or Careers?* (Industrial Society, Papermill Unit, Robert Hyde House, 48, Bryanston Square, London W1H 7LN).

Anglia plans push button shopping

By Bill Johnstone

Shoppers in Northampton will be able to buy items by transferring the payment electronically in seconds from their building society accounts from next spring.

The service is being tested by the Northampton-based Anglia Building Society which has more than half the 170,000 residents in the area as customers. Each customer will be issued with special cards which are used in conjunction with the society's electronic terminals.

The system, called Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale (Eftpos), allows instant access to the building society's computer which authorizes or cancels the purchase.

The cards, which can also be used on the building society's cash dispensers, will be issued on request to those customers with a minimum of £100 on account. Two hundred terminals will be installed at a variety of retail outlets. Each transaction will cost the retailer 5p.



A watch which belonged to the opera singer Maria Callas, which comes to auction at Phillips in London next Tuesday.

Trainer cleared after lion chews off man's arm

Mr Martin Lacey, a lion trainer who supervised the lion scenes in the film *American Werewolf in London*, was yesterday found, not guilty of two charges under the Health and Safety Act after a lion ate a disabled man's arm on a farm near Liverpool.

Mr Robert Holmes, aged 26, a mentally retarded epileptic, was savaged by Massa, a 10-year-old circus lion kept in a caged trailer, the Crosby Magistrates' Court was told.

Mr Simon Farrington, for the prosecution, said that the lion grabbed Mr Holmes's hand through a six inch gap at the bottom of the cage which he said was closed after the incident.

Mr Lacey, aged 42, of Bankhead Farm, Warrington Road, Bowbath, Widnes in

Cheshire, said he made every effort to warn people away from the trailer parked in Little Crosby while a circus was in town.

William Gordon Smith, a health and safety officer told the court that in his opinion the barrier was unsatisfactory.

Mr Holmes, of Delph Road, Little Crosby, told the court he had been looking in a builders' shop next to the trailer which housed four lions. He said: "I turned round and a lion grabbed my arm. It started chewing my arm off." He was taken to hospital and his left arm was amputated.

Mr Rex Makin for Mr Holmes, said after the hearing that he would pursue a civil claim for damages against Mr Lacey regardless of the Court decision.

Murder charge

Mark Anthony Alderson, aged 21, a gravedigger, of Perceigne Road, Sunbury, Surrey, was remanded in custody until Friday by magistrates at Slough, Berkshire, yesterday, charged, along with persons unknown, with murdering Mr Pura Singh Vis, aged 61, at his sub-post office in Wraybury, Berkshire, last week. A second man, aged 24, has also been charged with the murder and will appear at court this morning.

Thieves entered his home in a Dublin suburb in spite of a round-the-clock police watch on the building. Jewels and foreign currency were stolen.

Minister robbed

Detectives in Dublin are investigating a break-in at the home of Mr Peter Sutherland, Attorney General of the Irish Republic and Irish EEC Commissioner designate.

Thieves entered his home in a Dublin suburb in spite of a round-the-clock police watch on the building. Jewels and foreign currency were stolen.

Festival prize

The three millionth visitor to the International Garden Festival, Liverpool was Claire Banks, aged 21, who was visiting yesterday with her friend Kath Burns, aged 24, both from Merseyside. They win a week-long holiday in Florida. The festival closes on October 14.

Sizewell record

The inquiry into the proposed Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk, which began in January last year, passed the record of 258 days of sitting yesterday set by the inquiry into Stansted, as London's third Airport.

Dorset award

The Purbeck coast of Dorset yesterday received the council of Europe's diploma for conservation. It is Britain's fourth conservation area to earn the award since the scheme started in 1966.

Zoo manure

Paignton Zoo in Devon is to sell 200 tons of animal manure to gardeners at 35p a bag in an effort to increase its takings.

'Guests' at marriage were police

Fred King, aged 35, a lorry driver, was arrested seconds before he was scheduled to be married. As he waited with his "bride" at Finsbury Town Hall, London, three snarled dogs appeared, all wearing carnations. But they were not guests. They were from a newly-formed Scotland Yard unit investigating the growing "racket" in arranged marriages. Clerkenwell magistrates were told yesterday.

King was taken to a police station, leaving Yvonne Twissah,

a Ghanaian seamstress, in distress. Det. Con Bernard Cambi said: King, a divorced father of two children, of Balben Path, Hackney, London,

pleaded guilty to perjury - making a false statement by giving a false address for the purposes of marriage. He was given a three-month jail sentence suspended for three years.

Det Con Cambi revealed that arranged marriages have become "so serious" in London and other big cities in Britain that special police units are

checking registry office lists to investigate details being given by foreigners and the men or women they intend marrying.

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Dutch police arrested 11 suspected members of an international gang which arranges marriages of convenience between Ghanaian women and Dutch men.

Police believe the Dutch end of the organization has carried out about 2,000 such marriages during the past six years.

New SUPER RATES from Nationwide

Account	Interest	Withdrawals
NEW Capital Bond 2.05% above variable Share Account rate guaranteed for 3 years £500 and over. Monthly income	SUPER* RATE 10.04% 9.80%[†] = 14.00%^{††}	Immediate No notice-90 days interest lost; 90 days notice-no interest lost.
Bonus-90 Account £200 and over Monthly income on £2,000 and over	SUPER* RATE 10.04% 9.80%[†] = 14.00%^{††}	Immediate No notice-90 days interest lost; 90 days notice-no interest lost. No notice and no penalty from balances over £10,000.
Super Bonus Account £200 and over Monthly income on £2,000 and over	SUPER* RATE 9.78% 9.55%[†] = 13.64%^{††}	Immediate No notice-28 days interest lost; 28 days notice-no interest lost. No notice and no penalty from balances over £10,000.
Bonus-7 Account £200 and over Monthly income on £2,000 and over	SUPER* RATE 9.52% 9.30%[†] = 13.29%^{††}	Immediate No notice-7 days interest lost; 7 days notice-no interest lost. No notice and no penalty from balances over £10,000.

* The Nationwide Super Rate is the effective annual rate paid when full half-yearly interest remains invested.
† Net interest per annum paid half yearly.
†† Gross equivalent to basic rate income tax payers.
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It pays to decide Nationwide

Nationwide Building Society, New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.



LIBERAL ASSEMBLY

● East-West relations

● Freedom of information

● SDP seats

'Scrounging for cash must stop'

A stern warning that the party could no longer "scrounge" for cash was delivered by Mr David Evans, chairman of the Finance and Administration Board. He said that if Liberals wanted to get their hands on political power they had to stop pussy-footing about and raise their financial sights.

After a sometimes heated debate, the assembly carried a national executive committee recommendation to increase the constituency affiliation fee in England from £200 to £300 for 1985. Payment of the fee qualifies a constituency for 50 free membership cards. Extra ones will cost £2 each.

A second committee motion setting a recommended minimum subscription rate in England for 1985 of £7.50 a member was carried by 299 votes to 291.

Mr Evans said Liberals had to show they took their politics seriously.

● But for a contribution from the Euro Fund and two donations, all totalling £116,000, the party would have had a far worse deficit than the £1,802 with which it ended 1983, Mr Anthony Jacobs, joint treasurer, said.

Delegates also agreed...

● To campaign for a "no" vote in the ballots which will decide whether trade unions should have political funds. Under the Trade Union Act 1984, such ballots must be held by March 1986, and delegates carried a motion calling on the party's national executive committee to organize such a campaign.

● To put off until next year's assembly a decision on the party's continued membership of the Federation of European Liberals and Democrats (ELD). They will await the outcome of a thorough review of the position and decide a move to pull out immediately.

Message to mine industry

It was the clear duty of the miners' union and the coal board to return to the negotiating table, Mr Alan Watson, president-elect of the party, said in his opening speech.

Our message to the Prime Minister is equally clear, he said. "There will be no victory



Three's company: Mr Paddy Ashdown relaxing on the beach with his wife, Jane, and daughter, Kate, who work with the MP as a team (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Rodgers against fresh share-out of Alliance seats for next election

Mr William Rodgers, vice-president of the Social Democratic Party, spoke out against any fresh share-out of seats between the SDP and Liberal candidates before the next general election when he addressed the Liberal Party Assembly at Bournemouth yesterday.

Each of the Alliance partners should lead in the seats in which they led in 1983, Mr Rodgers told his audience.

His remarks drew isolated shouts of "rubbish" from parts of the conference but Mr Rodgers said that such a course would make best sense, cause least fuss and win the Alliance much public credit.

"I still hope that there will not be too many changes in the 300 or more seats each party fights - and we must each fight that number", he said.

Reports by Barbara Day, Anthony Hodges and Stephen Goodwin
He conceded there were bound to be misunderstandings from time to time and occasional disputes between the Alliance partners. "Politics attracts some odd characters and neither of our parties is immune. But overwhelmingly -

The steering committee has accepted an emergency motion for debate later in the week on Government secrecy and the sinking of the General Belgrano.

The motion, whose mover is yet to be named, states that "this assembly, disturbed at reports that senior ministers have misled the House of

Commons, condemns the withholding of full and accurate information on the sinking of the Belgrano in May, 1982, and calls upon the Liberal Party to press for a full and impartial inquiry with the Government providing necessary information, and censures the Government for its handling of the matter."

at least I speak for the SDP - our members now take the Alliance for granted.

"They know it is here to stay. That is the starting point for discussion about the details of our relationship. Our Alliance is permanent", Mr Rodgers said to applause.

He recalled that 12 months ago there was argument in both parties about merger. Whatever opinion polls might say, whatever pressure groups within their parties might propose, there would be no merger before the next general election. And no one could foresee what

must remain an equal one, Mr Rodgers said.

He hoped that the two parties would campaign on issues together. The exchange of ideas and informal discussion of policy should go on between all their members.

"We need not, at this stage, expect to reach precise agreement on everything but we can come to understand - and to learn from - another point of view."

"In the interest of the Alliance, we shall eventually have to make a conscious decision to lean towards each

other on some issues, giving the benefit of the doubt where a policy position has long been central to the Liberal Party or was fundamental to the establishment of the SDP."

Mr Rogers said that the Alliance was not out to win votes, influence and power just for the fun of it, nor to win because we accept the responsibility that lies beyond winning.

"Only if we behave like a future government of Britain, will we ever become one. We owe it to our country to look to 1988 as our opportunity, and to fight without reservation to win."

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Steel looks to era after Reagan and Chernenko

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, made his first speech of the conference at parliamentary question time when he asked if he had detected any change in the Russian attitude to East-West relations during his visit to the Soviet Union.

"I would like to be able to answer yes," he told his questioner, Mrs Doreen Elliott, a former chairman of the Liberal Parliamentary Association, "but the truth is no, I did not detect any particular change."

Despite that disappointing aspect, he thought it had been right to have made the visit, something that no other party had done during the period of President Andropov's rule. Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe had wasted four years before they made their first visit behind the Iron Curtain.

It was unfortunate that the fate of mankind should at present rest with two elderly gentlemen, President Reagan and President Chernenko. "We wish it was in the hands of people with a rather longer term personal interest in it," he said to loud applause.

"I suspect we will not see a constructive improvement politically in East-West relations until this Reagan-Chernenko era is past and we have younger leaders in both countries."

Although he had not had an opportunity to meet any of the younger members of the Politburo he believed there was a younger generation of leaders coming up and the hope must be that they would be men with fresh ideas, less hidebound and less wary about the past.

Mr Steel declined to answer a questioner who asked him to consider the possibility of appointing a Shadow Alliance Cabinet to help to weld SDP

and Liberal MPs into a closer team in Parliament.

Instead, Mr Alan Bell, Liberal chief whip and MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, indicating that Mr Steel thought it was an inappropriate matter for discussion at the conference, emphasized the remarkable progress made in the day-to-day cooperation between the Alliance MPs.

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Repeal secrets Act call

A call for the withdrawal of the prosecution against Mr Clive Ponting, a civil servant charged under Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, was made by Mr Des Wilson, chairman of the 1984 Freedom of Information Campaign, during a debate which ended with the party reaffirming its support for the repeal of the Act and its replacement with a Freedom of Information Act.

The assembly also approved an amendment to the main motion deploring the use by the Attorney General of Section Two of the Official Secrets Act as a means of disciplining a senior civil servant for allegedly having supplied information to an MP on a matter of acute public interest.

The amendment had been moved by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of the party's home affairs panel, who also referred to the case of Sarah Tisdall and said that the Attorney General must be some

kind of Thatcherite "flat earth" man.

The Government simply would not learn its lesson.

Mr Wilson said that secrecy had become a disease in Britain. Mrs Thatcher had herself become a victim of that secrecy because there were more "leaks" from her administration than any previous one.

The campaign, he said, had attracted more institutional and individual support than any other public campaign for years.

Mr Steel declined to answer a questioner who asked him to consider the possibility of appointing a Shadow Alliance Cabinet to help to weld SDP

and Liberal MPs into a closer team in Parliament.

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British Museum may bid for blocked Chatsworth drawing

By Frances Gibb

The British Museum is considering making a bid for one of 12 Chatsworth Old Master drawings worth a total for almost £13m which have been temporarily stopped by the Government from export.

A bid, possibly for a Rubens drawing of a man threshing priced at £779,520, would cause further furore in art circles where the museum is already under heavy criticism for its part in the Chatsworth sale.

The Rubens is one of three drawings stopped from export last month from a package of 71 works auctioned for £21m by the Duke of Devonshire from the Chatsworth collection. On Monday the Government announced export stops on a further nine drawings, totalling almost £10m, from the same collection.

The duke had originally offered the British Museum the whole package for a bargain £5.5m but a deal could not be agreed, although the difference was said to be a mere £250,000, a sum that was bound to have been raised by the National Art Collections Fund, a charitable trust.

The export stops have ironically been made on the advice of the British Museum's

Keeper of Drawings, Mr John Rowlands, in his other capacity as adviser to the Department of Trade and the Reviewing Committee on The Export of Works of Art.

They are made, in theory, to give other museums a last chance to match the purchase prices and to stop the works going abroad. But as no other museum could afford the huge sums involved, the stops are being seen as on grounds of principle rather than for any practical purpose.

Yesterday Mr Ewen Balfour, a spokesman for the British Museum, could not comment on a possible bid. "The pictures will be discussed by the trustees at their next meeting on October 6," he said.

It is likely, however, that if the trustees decide on the Rubens, there may be more criticism in art circles where there are views that the Rubens would not be the best drawing for the museum to acquire.

A group of leading gallery directors have already demanded that the museum's trustees and its director explain their failure to accept the duke's bargain offer. The museum's handling of the offer, they say, has dealt a blow to the private treaty sales system

Yesterday Heritage in Danger, the all-party pressure group, called for a complete overhaul of the art export system after the last export ban on the Chatsworth drawings.

Among the drawings which have been stopped from export for between two to six months are a study of a man's head and arm by Raphael, valued at £3.6m; a sheet of 10 studies by Italian Renaissance artists (£3.3m); four Rembrandt drawings ranging from £390,000 to £522,640 and a Rubens drawing valued at £622,720.

● More government money was urgently needed to prevent Britain from losing what is truly important to its national heritage, Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, the new chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission said yesterday.

In his opening address to 260 delegates attending a six-day conference in Guernsey of the Museums Association he urged members to pool ideas for preserving what remained of the national heritage. Whatever was decided in terms of grants and tax concessions would have to be agreed by all-party agreement so as not to be upset by successive governments.

All new cars sold in Europe after January 1, 1989, will use lead-free petrol if the West German Government accepts proposals today which could break the deadlock with its EEC partners.

The move indicates a courageous change of heart by West Germany. Last summer, under pressure from the "Save Our Forests" campaign, led by the political party of the Greens it announced unilateral action to impose lead-free petrol in Germany from January 1, 1986.

There was an immediate storm of protest from the entire European motor industry led by Germany's own manufacturers. They gave warning that it would lead to a bitter trade war if French, Italian and British manufacturers refused to modify their cars and had to be excluded from the German market, the largest in the community.

Heads of French and Italian motor manufacturing companies said a 1986 deadline would give the German car makers an unfair advantage because they were already

exporting large numbers of cars to the United States which were modified to meet the same stringent emission controls the Germans proposed to adopt. Now the protesters are being offered a three-year extension in which to prepare.

Speaking at a new car launch in Munich yesterday, Dr Wolfgang Habel, chairman of Audi, said: "We do not accept that the case against the car as a polluter and destroyer of our forests has been proved, but we still want to play our part in improving the environment. I believe the present proposals could form the framework of the binding European solution so urgently needed to put an end to the present indecision."

The Germans want the introduction of lead-free petrol, phased in with a government subsidy paid to motorists from 1986 to 1988.

Among the options being considered by the West German Government is a 4p a gallon subsidy on lead-free petrol, would give the German car makers an unfair advantage because they were already



Court appointment: Princess Michael of Kent driving from Kensington Palace yesterday to Queen's Club in west London for a game of tennis

Mother-tongue studies 'poor'

Criticism about the quality of mother-tongue teaching of children whose language was not English was highlighted yesterday in a report by school inspectors.

Based on a study of four education authorities in London, the West Midlands and the North-west, the inspectors found good work in some infant schools but found approaches and provision "less secure" in some primary and secondary schools.

Many schools, the inspectors said, showed serious defects in terms of good teaching.

There was a need for head teachers and staff to be well informed about the linguistic and cultural background of pupils and to make sure that the use and teaching of the mother tongue was related to the mainstream curriculum, the report said.

The authorities involved were the Inner London Education Authority, the London borough of Ealing, Manchester and Walsall.

The inspectors emphasized that mother-tongue teaching of children from the immigrant community was a relatively new experience for education authorities.

Many of the teachers involved were part-time and suffered from professional isolation, the report said.

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In a report presented yesterday by the authority's leader, Mrs Frances Morrell, said that during the summer the Department of Education and Science had surreptitiously acquired the means for "detailed surveillance" of its spending.

Its building projects were frozen; all new contracts had to be approved; and the Government had even to approve the hire of school rooms out of hours. Mrs Morrell said that the new controls would halt the supply of computers to London's schoolchildren, a policy enthusiastically supported by the Department of Trade and Industry.

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Firewoman 'harassed at ceremony'

By Sheila Beardsall

A London firewoman gave evidence at a hearing yesterday against seven firemen accused of sexually harassing her during an induction ceremony.

Firewoman Lynne Gunning, aged 23, of Frimley Close, New Addington, Surrey, claimed that her colleagues at Soho fire station in central London tied her to a ladder, hosed her down, used obscene language and exposed themselves.

They were suspended from duty and Miss Gunning, a former Croydon traffic warden, was transferred to Clapham fire station, south London.

The seven are: Station Officer John Peen, Sub Officer Stephen Short and Leading Fireman Glen Grandison, who all face three accusations, including two of neglect of duty, and firemen Patrick Toynce, Garry Langford, Leslie Hensley and Leonard Goodfellow, all accused of disreputable conduct.

The disciplinary proceedings, held in camera at London Fire Brigade's headquarters in Lambeth, are expected to continue for another two days.

The firemen could face dismissal, demotion or fines under the fire service disciplinary code if the case is proved.

Miss Gunning, one of only five women in the 7,000-member London Fire Brigade, joined the Soho station last November.

Senior London fire officers said that the induction ceremonies were traditional, but a spokesman for the brigade said that so far as management was concerned they did not exist.

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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Mr David Steel has wisely decided to reassert himself as Liberal leader. But in doing so he may have given a somewhat misleading impression of political realities at Bournemouth this week.

The critical vote to be taken at the end of the defence debate tomorrow is likely to be whether to demand the unconditional withdrawal of the cruise missiles already deployed in this country, or to seek a nuclear freeze, which would prevent those weapons already here to stay in the meantime. The first choice would bring the Liberals into damaging conflict with the SDP.

The preliminary vote taken in the party's defence commission on Monday suggested that it may be quite a close-run thing. But in his Panorama interview this evening, Mr Steel threatened to use his personal veto rather than be saddled with a defence policy of which he disapproved. In doing so he was sending a message both to his own party, and to the SDP.

To the Liberal conference he was saying that he would not tamely accept a decision for the immediate withdrawal of the missiles. To the SDP he was signalling that even if the vote tomorrow were to go against his wishes, it would not be disastrous for the Alliance.

Following veto precedent

Whatever resolution is passed does not have the status of Holy Writ, he maintained, "because the final authority on the manifesto rests with me". In saying this, Mr Steel was technically correct: the party constitution does give him such a veto.

He was also following precedent. The 1981 assembly voted against the deployment of cruise, and Mr Steel did not allow the party to be bound by that decision.

But I do not believe that Mr Steel is now correct politically. There is a limit to how often a leader can simply defy his party on a highly sensitive issue. More particularly, the Liberal leader is given a veto over only a general election manifesto.

While Mr Steel will undoubtedly have great influence over the joint interim programme that the Liberals and the SDP are to produce in 1986, he will not be able to exercise a constitutional veto on the contents of that document. It is expected to be drafted by some kind of joint committee, and then presented for approval to the respective party conferences.

Some people have been speaking at Bournemouth as if the Liberals are this week simply establishing a negotiating position from which agreed policies can then be worked out with the SDP. But the Liberal drafters of the 1986 joint programme would be taking a considerable risk if they were to accept a major revision of this assembly's decision on cruise in the hope of persuading a subsequent conference to change its mind.

Critical vote for Alliance

The SDP could not reverse its position without forfeiting public respect; and it certainly could not be expected to put up with an unacceptable statement on cruise in 1986, in the hope that the Steel veto could be brought into play for the general election.

Perhaps the march of international events will shortly remove cruise as a political issue, but that cannot be taken for granted. The natural assumption, therefore, is that tomorrow's vote will be critical for the Alliance.

If it does not bring the two parties into collision, then quite possibly over a period of time the process of policy discussions between the two parties will be so broadened - between the selected candidates of both parties, and locally as well as nationally - that it may no longer be relevant to think in terms of separate Liberal and Social Democratic approaches. The political pressures are towards convergence.

But if the Liberals veto for the immediate unilateral withdrawal of cruise, they will both make it harder to reach agreement on policy and increase the doubts of many Social Democrats as to whether Liberals are the sort of people with whom they wish to link their political fortunes indissolubly.

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Violence mars ending of strike by black gold miners in South Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The first legal strike by black gold miners in South Africa's history ended yesterday only a day after it had begun, but too late to prevent serious violence between strikers and riot police on at least three mine compounds.

The National Union of Mineworkers and the Chamber of Mines, representing the employers, announced that the miners had accepted a revised wage offer, involving increases in holiday pay, which will come into effect on October 1.

Police used birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas at JCI's Westwaria mine and Anglo Vaal's Hartbeestfontein mine after violence had broken out.

The improved pay offer will apply only to the 90,000 blacks working in the eight mines where the NUM is recognized, all but one of which are owned by the Anglo-American Corpor-

ation, the world's biggest mining enterprise. This could lead to friction with the rest of the 430,000 blacks employed in the gold mines and cause agitation for comparable terms. Variations in pay between mining companies have provoked riots in the past.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the General Secretary of the NUM, declined to say whether the union was pleased with the settlement. Future relations with management would depend on how it dealt with workers "after this time of turmoil", he said.

More than 250 black miners were treated on Monday at a mine hospital in Welkom, in the Orange Free State, mainly for injuries caused by rubber bullets fired by the police. More than 100 are still in hospital, two in the intensive care unit and 11 recovering from operations.

Mr Peter Gush, chairman of Anglo's gold and uranium division, issued a statement yesterday regretting the injuries, but claiming that the police had been called only after serious intimidation by strikers of those who wanted to go on working.

According to Mr Ramaphosa, however, the police "attacked and inflicted injuries on workers who had gathered peacefully and in an orderly manner to consider the chamber's offer". He said the NUM was considering legal action.

The violence occurred at Anglo's Western Holdings mine, which has three separate divisions, and President Brand mine, which are in the Orange Free State. All the eight mines directly involved in the NUM's dispute with the chamber were reported to be operating normally by last night.

The deal which ended the strike will introduce holiday pay, equal to 50 per cent of normal monthly pay, for the first time for unskilled workers and raise it from 50 to 75 per cent for semi-skilled workers.

If the strike had been prolonged it would have had a serious effect on the South African economy, which depends on gold for 45 per cent of its export earnings. The eight affected mines account for just under 30 per cent of total gold output.

ment to arrest and imprison its opponents without trial.

In his address to Parliament, which will normally sit in three racially segregated chambers but can be convened in joint session on special occasions, Mr Botha said that black (ie African) political participation required structures and processes other than those offered by the new constitution.

"We therefore realize that the constitution does not provide fully for the diversity which marks the South African population. Democratic political participation must also be further extended among our black communities in order to ensure their advancement and to meet the demands for justice", he declared.

Mr Botha gave no indication, however, how black political rights were to be improved. At a press conference last Saturday, after his inauguration as President on the previous day, he bluntly ruled out any question of a fourth chamber for Africans, who make up more than two-thirds of the population in the new Parliament.

After electing a number of standing committees, the only bodies in which direct bargaining between the races is likely to occur, the Parliament is expected to go into recess until January next year.

Be realistic, Botha tells new MPs

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South Africa's new President, Mr P W Botha, yesterday opened the country's first multiracial Parliament in Cape Town and called for self-control, thrift, realism, forbearance and mutual respect. These qualities, he said, were necessary to sustain economic prosperity and further constitutional development.

The opening of the Parliament, which has 178 white, 85 coloured (mixed blood) and 45 Indian MPs, was the first event in what has been planned as a series of dignified ceremonies to mark the introduction of the new constitution and focus the world's attention on the Government's reformist policies.

The elections last month of the Coloured and Indian MPs were seriously marred, however, by low polls and violent clashes between the police and anti-apartheid protesters. Then on September 3, the day the new constitution came into force, riots broke out in black townships, costing at least 44 lives so far.

Not sooner had the township violence begun to die down than six leading African and Indian anti-apartheid campaigners took refuge in the British consulate in Durban, turning the spotlight on the almost limitless powers of the Govern-

Consulate refugees seek EEC and UN support

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Representatives of the six men who have taken refuge in the British Consulate in Durban said yesterday that they were turning for support to the European Community and the United Nations, after two fruitless days in Britain.

Mr Zac Yacoub, a barrister and member of the United Democratic Front in South Africa, said in London that they wanted to bring more pressure to bear on Britain as well as on the Government in Pretoria.

The three representatives are upset because Britain "has refused to provide a minister for them to meet after their flight from Durban to elicit support."

They are also bitter about the way in which "unsympathetic" British officials at the consulate have made clear that the six are unwelcome guests.

They were not being treated

with the dignity and esteem to which they were entitled as leaders of the opposition to the South African regime, Mr Yacoub said.

"It has amounted to an insult. Yet the day is soon going to come when the South African Government, and even the British Government, will want to talk to these leaders," he told a press conference.

● DUBAI: The legal battle to secure the freedom of the six men in the Consulate here is to begin on Friday (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Justice Friedman, of the Natal Supreme Court, ruled in Durban yesterday that an application to scrap the arrest orders against the men should be heard in Pietermaritzburg in the Natal provincial division of the Supreme Court.

Netherlands to hold down taxes

From Robert Schmil Amsterdam

Dutch taxes will not be raised for the first time in many years, and next year, which leads up to an election, social service premiums will be reduced.

The Government outlined its new programme in a speech from the throne by Queen Beatrix at the beginning of the new parliamentary year and in the 1985 budget which was presented to Parliament yesterday.

It is confident that its policies are leading to economic recovery and believes that holding taxes down and reducing national insurance will produce a rise in purchasing power of between 1 and 2 per cent, particularly in the private sector.

The Government also claims to have brought the country's soaring unemployment rate to a halt. The Netherlands has one of the highest rates in Europe, with 830,000 or 17 per cent of the workforce unemployed.

Cuts in public spending, totalling 9,300m guilders (about £2,165m) will mainly affect public sector salaries, social security benefits and public health expenditure.

In her speech the Queen emphasized the need to fight the rising crime rate. Extra



Queen Beatrix delivering her speech yesterday

funds will be made available to the police and the courts, while the number of prison cells will also be increased.

Defence spending will be up by 2 per cent in 1985 and the government has promised to conform to the 3 per cent Nato norm by 1987. Development aid spending remains unchanged at 1.5 per cent of the national income.

The Queen also hinted that the Netherlands may be obliged to deploy 48 cruise missiles.

In June the Dutch government announced it would not deploy cruise missiles on Dutch soil if the Soviet Union froze its SS20 levels, or alternatively it would deploy a lower number, if limitations were agreed between Moscow and Washington.



Ambush victim: The driver of the bus attacked near Bethlehem receiving treatment in a Jerusalem hospital. His condition was not regarded as serious.

Libya charges two detained Britons

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two of the six Britons who have been arrested by Libyan police since diplomatic relations between the two countries were severed five months ago have now been charged.

They are Mr John Campbell, who appeared in court on Sunday accused of issuing a

forged document, and Mr Michael King, who appeared the next day in connexion with an alleged drugs offence.

Mr George Anderson, the British consular official who has remained in Tripoli since the rest of the embassy staff were withdrawn, was in court for

both hearing and said that the two men looked fit and well.

The Foreign Office has always suspected that the Libyan authorities have re-

garded Mr Campbell and Mr King as being in a different category from four other men who are in detention in Tripoli.

Egypt firm on terms for closer Israel ties

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv

Mr Mohammad Abdel Aziz Bassiony, the Egyptian Charge d'Affaires here, conveyed President Mubarak's greetings to Mr Shimon Peres yesterday on his inauguration as Israeli Prime Minister, but made clear that Cairo stood by its old preconditions for normalizing relations between the two countries.

Responding to the new Government's call to strengthen ties and to give substance to the 1979 peace treaty, Mr Bassiony said Egypt was ready to negotiate "if there is a new atmosphere in Israel".

Normalization could start only after Israeli troops had been withdrawn from Lebanon, steps had been taken to gain the confidence of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and negotiations began on Taba, the coastal strip south of Eilat which is claimed by both Israel and Egypt.

● BUS AMBUSH: Israeli troops combed Dheisha refugee camp at El Khader, near Bethlehem, throughout the night for gunmen who ambushed an Israeli bus on Monday evening. The car was lifted in Dheisha yesterday morning but maintained in El Khader.

The bus driver and four passengers, as well as two Arabs travelling in a car behind the bus, were treated in hospital.

Two rival militias sign accord in Tripoli

Damascus (Reuters) - Two rival militias in the north Lebanese port of Tripoli signed a Syrian-mediated peace agreement in Damascus yesterday which is designed to end their long feud.

The Syrian Vice-President, Mr Abdel Halim Khaddam, was present when the accord was signed by the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party and the Sunni Muslim Islamic Unification Movement.

The accord bans gunmen from the streets and calls for the collection of their heavy and medium weapons in Tripoli and its suburbs. The guns would be guarded by Lebanese police and gendarmes, and by Syrian troops stationed in north Lebanon.

The two militias have fought on an off in Tripoli for the past five years. Two people died and nine were wounded in their latest clash on Sunday.

Under the seven-point agreement a joint force of Lebanese troops, gendarmes and police backed by Syrian soldiers would be in charge of security in the city.

A committee of city and militia leaders would impose extra customs duties to compensate people who have suffered in the fighting. Security forces would prevent imports of arms and ammunition.

Militia representatives would join Lebanese and Syrian Army officers on a committee to supervise implementation.

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The Chad troop withdrawals French satellite will ensure Gaddafi keeps to his promise

From Alan Tiller, Paris

All French political parties yesterday acclaimed the Franco-Libyan agreement to withdraw French troops from Chad between September 25 and mid-November. However, France intends to monitor, by satellite and through the presence of several hundred observers from friendly African states, the sincerity of the Libyan promises.

Part of the French force in Chad will withdraw to neighbouring countries — the Central African Republic, Gabon and possibly Cameroon — to await the final outcome in Chad. Ministers and generals were awaiting further reassurances from Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, who two weeks ago was declaring his intention of inflicting "a new Dien Bien Phu" on France, a reference to the French defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese in 1954.

Gaddafi's word is one thing. Another is whether the two men at the centre of the Chad drama will ever reach agreement. Fifteen years of dealing with the mess in Chad — French forces have intervened three times in strength — have taught French governments of all colours that everything depends on these two, namely Mr Hissène Habré, President of Chad, and his arch-rival, and predecessor, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who is backed by Colonel Gaddafi. The chances are not good, for hatred has developed with the years.

Mr Habré, informed of the agreement at the last minute, is furious, according to sources in Paris. Yesterday his Foreign Minister, Mr Gouara Lassou, flew from Paris to Algiers to "examine the relaunching of relations" between Algeria and Chad.

In Paris, Mr Lassou said he did not understand why Chad had not been kept informed, particularly as it was his country which had invited the

French to return to its defence a year ago. Algeria's relations are cool towards Libya, which signed a recent "union" agreement with Morocco. Algiers welcomed the Franco-Libyan withdrawal, on condition that it led to a "lasting settlement" of the Chad problem.

Mr Habré's fear is that the Libyan force of 5,000 and the troops of Mr Goukouni will merely pull back to the disputed Aozou Strip, along the border with Libya. Mr Lassou told the French that the Libyans would strike from this strip once the French had departed. The

Kreisky role in negotiations

Austria's former Chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, acted as an intermediary between France and Libya in their agreement to withdraw troops from Chad (Richard Bassett reports from Vienna).

Dr Kreisky, who is living in retirement in Majorca, said in an Austrian radio interview that his long-standing friendship with both President Mitterrand and Colonel Gaddafi enabled him to play a significant role in their reaching agreement.

French replied that their Army has a contingency plan to clear the Aozou area, if necessary.

Yesterday the Libyan Foreign Minister, Dr Ali Triki, repeated the claim, in an interview with French radio, that the Aozou Strip, occupied by Colonel Gaddafi in 1973, was an integral part of Libya. He added: "We must allow the Chadian people to solve their problems, Chadians among themselves. We will assume our responsibilities if there is outside intervention against Chad or a threat."

The sounded reassuring, but

they came after France had drawn up its own new plan for the defence of Chad from bases in Bouar, northern Central African Republic, the capital, Bangui, and Libreville, in Gabon.

There was no immediate confirmation that 700 French rapid-intervention forces would be stationed in northern Cameroon, though the first French forces to go to Mr Habré's rescue the last time in August last year, came from there.

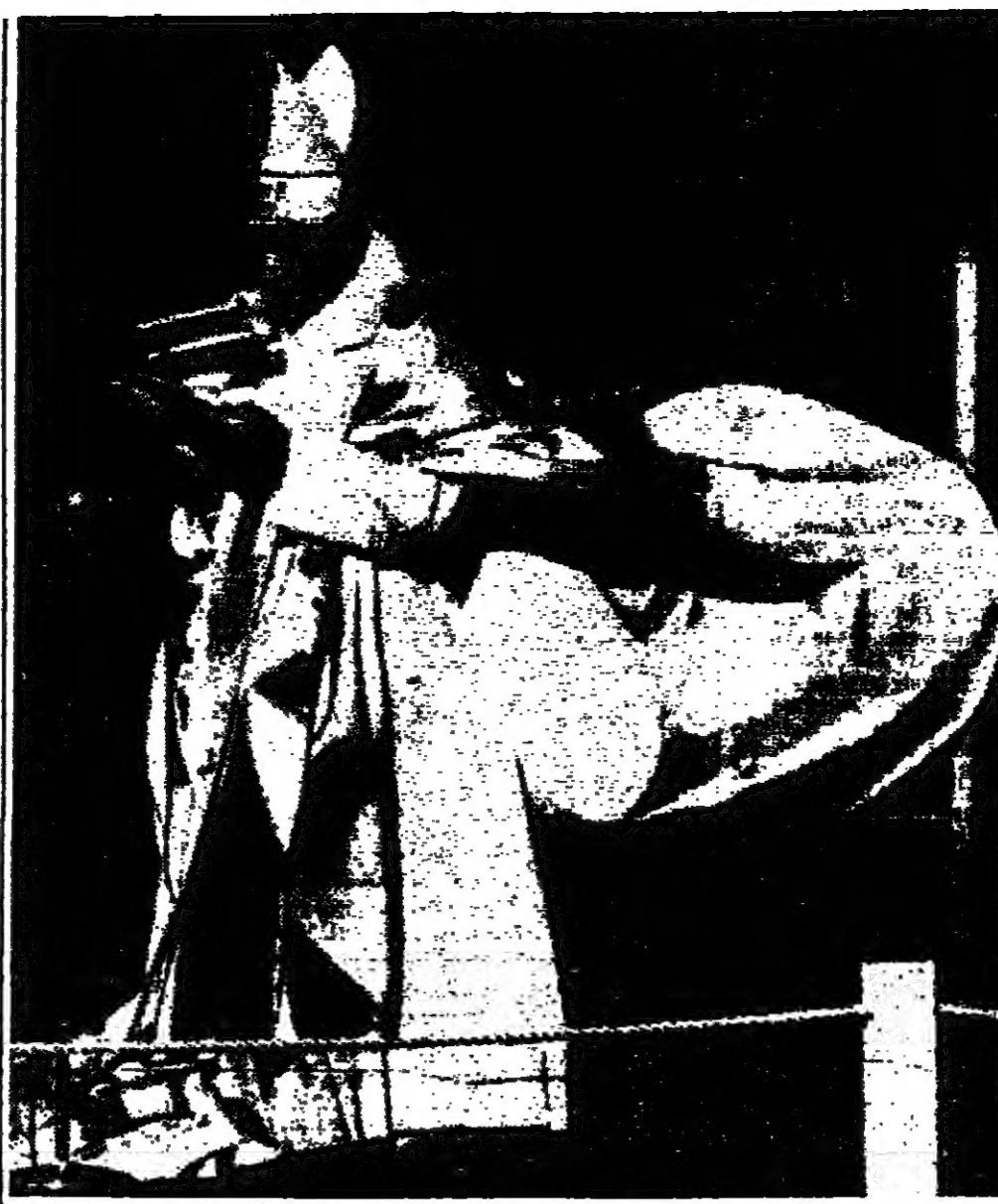
An observer said in Paris: "The French have been using Douala to send in military equipment by sea and then by Transal transport planes to Chad, but the French have bases all around Chad without having to set up new facilities in Cameroon."

Relations between France and Cameroon are reasonably good, given the fact that the former president, recently deposed, lives in France. Relations are good with the Central African Republic, and excellent with Gabon.

The view in Paris last night was that Colonel Gaddafi had agreed to withdraw because of the strong French military posture, his own internal problems, divisions within Mr Goukouni's forces, and the restraining influence of his new ally, King Hassan of Morocco.

Mr Michel Jobert, who was Foreign Minister when the Colonel last visited Paris, said the United States would not be happy about France's deal with Libya and added that "Chad was now face-to-face with itself".

● KINSHASA VISITOR: M Guy Pervin, President Mitterrand's Africa trouble-shooter, arrived yesterday in Kinshasa to discuss with President Mobutu whether the 2,000 Zaire troops should remain in Chad. They were not mentioned in the Franco-Libyan commu-



Wind and a prayer: The Pope addressing a crowd of 15,000 at a Mass at Namau, north of Edmonton, Alberta. Yesterday he was unable to land at Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories when fog forced his aircraft to be diverted.

Operation Lionheart

From Colin Hughes, Wildenrath

Press corps grapples with gas and gag

"Gas, gas, gas." On the instructor's shout, two dozen journalists snatched frog-like masks over bleary faces, transforming them instantly from joking backs into early attired modern war correspondents.

Donning the "NBC" suits, two-piece combat wear which blocks out nuclear, chemical and biological agents, is part of out obligation to endure the same discomforts suffered by soldiers in a European war.

As guinea pigs in a trial of how such a future war would be covered, one lady and 24 gentlemen of the press are simulating battle reporting alongside 120,000 British troops on Exercise Lionheart in West Germany.

It includes tramping in a circle round a CS gas-filled chamber looking from the outside like science fiction bipeds and feeling inside more like moistly vacuum-packed sausages.

The "Noddy" suit, as Army-speak has it, is charcoal-lined and sealed at every joint. No air gets but what you can breathe.

At least in principle. When one reporter dived from the gas chamber door to snip his mask and breathe in the morning air in a misty copse at Aarsbeck, near the Belgian border, after snuffing the sharp sting of CS, we learnt our first lesson: "Never go to war with a beard".

On arrival at Chelsea Barracks we acquired our accreditation passes and were told we would not be working under any censorship rules during our week in West Germany. Except, of course, that the accreditation rules we have just signed are not for publication.

Now this is what journalists, with their instinct for battered cliché, call a Catch-22. Our Ministry of Defence attorneys prefer the term "accreditation bargain".

That means that, ever since the disastrous relations between press and forces caused by difficulties in reporting the Falklands war the two sides have been attempting to

reach a deal on how the Mad will give reporters access to the battlefield and how much information will be controlled.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Mackie, head of army public relations, believes that in a European war against the Warsaw Pact any journalist caught wandering loose in a hire car with nothing but a London press pass would be picked up as an agent of Spetsnaz, the Russian equivalent of the SAS.

The Catch-22, then, may yet be solvable. We practise self-censorship, pledging never to jeopardize operational security; in return we are shown battle plans, and are lent all the

TV glimpse dampens Chernenko rumours

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko appeared on Moscow television last night, dampening speculation about his health and authority which had begun to circulate again in Moscow.

Mr Chernenko, aged 72, ended growing rumours that he was incapacitated or even dying when he reappeared on September 6 at a Kremlin ceremony honouring three Soviet cosmonauts. He had not previously appeared for nearly two months and the Soviet press had begun to issue statements reminiscent of devices used by President Andropov's illness to assure Russians and foreigners that the Soviet leader was well and in command.

After the Cosmonauts ceremony, however, Mr Chernenko again disappeared from view for nearly two weeks, and there were rumours he had entered hospital. Yesterday Mr Chernenko presented the Greek Communist leader, Mr Harilaos Trikoupi, with the Order of Lenin. He was also expected to publicly honour Mr Viktor Grishin, the Politburo member and party leader in Moscow, who was yesterday awarded the Order of Lenin and a "hammer and sickle" medal on his seventieth birthday.

Mr Chernenko will be 73 on Monday, and observers will be watching to see how the event is treated in the Soviet media.

Russians to release American seamen

Washington (Reuters) — Five American seamen held by the Soviet Union in the remote Siberian coastal town of Ureliki will be released, two US senators said yesterday.

In separate statements, Senator Howard Baker, of Tennessee, and Senator Frank Murkowski, of Alaska, both Republicans, said they had been told of the Soviet decision by the State Department.

Soviet officials have said the men were on board a ship that strayed into Soviet waters. State Department officials said the ship, the *Frieda K.*, was delivering supplies and water to remote islands off Alaska and have denied it was on a spy mission.

Sakharov clash at Stockholm

Stockholm (AP) — The United States sought to link the conference on disarmament in Europe here to the question of human rights in the Soviet Union, notably the case of Dr Andrei Sakharov. Human rights, peace and security were inseparable, the US delegate said. This provoked the Soviet delegates to charge Washington with trying to "derail" the talks with irrelevant issues.

Rama Rao

Hyderabad (Reuters) — A curfew was reimposed on parts of this south Indian city after a Muslim rickshaw driver was stabbed to death in renewed communal violence. It continued the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, with his first challenge.

Heart success

Betsy Smith, aged 23, of San Diego, California, who received a man's heart in transplant surgery four years ago, has given birth to a healthy baby girl, apparently the first successful birth by a heart recipient. The male heart survived the strain of the pregnancy.

Paris (Reuters) — Six bombs exploded in Paris early yesterday, causing extensive damage but no injuries. Three banks, a Culture Ministry annex, a Post Office vehicle and a building attached to the Sacre Coeur Basilica were the targets.

Threat to trout

Geneva (Reuters) — Acid rain could reduce the number of trout in some rivers and lakes by up to 80 per cent if air pollution continues at present rates, the UN Economic Commission for Europe said. A study in Norway had shown this.

Journalists quit

Windhoek (AFP) — Eleven of the 13 staff of Namibia's controversial weekly newspaper, the *Windhoek Observer*, have resigned in protest at the owner's suspension of its political editor Owen Lister, for allegedly being too liberal.

Passport lure

Suva, Fiji (Reuters) — Fiji is offering passports and eventual permanent citizenship to foreigners ready to invest 100,000 Fijian dollars (£71,000) in government bonds for 15 years.

Hong Kong businessmen are understood to be the target.

Long player

Zurich (AP) — Felix Leutenegger, a Swiss carpenter, aged 28, claimed a world record for playing the barrel organ, cranking the device for 103 hours non-stop in the village of Opfikon-Glabrunn.

Adieu, képi

Paris (Reuters) — French policemen will hang up their famous képi and cape image next summer and change to an American-style uniform, the Interior Ministry announced. The flat-topped képi makes way for an aviator-style cap and a short, broad-shouldered jacket replaces the cape.

Seven up

Cape Canaveral (AFP) — A record seven astronauts, including two women and the first Canadian, will be on board the US space shuttle Challenger when it takes off from here on October 5, the space agency announced.

Round the bend

Tokyo (Reuters) — Designers at the Mitsubishi Electric Corporation have come up with a curved escalator. The first one being installed in a Tokyo store and at an Osaka trade fair.

Budget progress but little else at EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

EEC foreign ministers left Brussels last night agreed on nothing except that there had been what most delegations called "progress" towards solving the Community's cash crisis during a two-day council session.

The ministers meet again in Luxembourg on October 1 and 2, aware that they must settle their remaining differences if the long and damaging budget squabble is to be settled. At the same time they will have to agree the terms for Spanish and Portuguese entry into the Community, because this is the only way in which essential extra money can be made available.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said: "We are now clearly in the last phase of this long and difficult process. Nobody attaches more importance to bringing it to a successful conclusion than the United Kingdom. We think there is now a reasonable prospect of reaching agreement on all the elements by the deadline of October 5."

That is a deadline imposed by the fact that the European Parliament must be sent a draft budget then if it is to vote on the issue during its session the following week. Without that parliamentary approval there can be no extra money for the Community before its funds run out.

"Progress" was on a wide range of fronts, even though all the most contentious issues still remain. They will need intensive work by officials to be in a fit state for decision by October 2, but the political will to reach an end to the long negotiations is now very evident.

M. Raymond Dumas, the French minister responsible for EEC matters, also identified "progress" on most fronts yesterday, even though he felt that Britain's current negotiating position was "paradoxical". His line had softened considerably overnight, since on Monday he had told journalists that France could not accept new rules on controlling EEC spending along the lines of those worked out in outline by finance ministers in Ireland last weekend.

All countries now accept the British point that all the issues must be settled together. This is what gives particular urgency to the Luxembourg meeting, which will be held at the same time as finance ministers are deciding on the new budget rules, and while agriculture ministers are holding a special session devoted entirely to stemming the mounting flood of EEC wine production.

The outstanding questions remain complicated and numerous. The finance ministers have to agree a set of rules which will effectively hold EEC spending below an agreed ceiling.

Heidemann tells of Nazi treasure

Hamburg (Reuters) — The West German journalist Herr Gerd Heidemann, who is charged with fraud for selling diaries purported to be Hitler's, said yesterday he signed a contract with East Germany in August, 1981, regarding treasure belonging to the Nazi leader Hermann Göring.

The contract assured Herr Heidemann and the East German Government of 50 per cent each of the treasure, said to have been tipped into a lake towards the end of the Second World War, the court heard.

Herr Heidemann paid an undisclosed amount to the East Berlin authorities for machinery and 40 engineers of the National People's Army who were to lift the treasure, he said. But it was never found.

Mondale shift on foreign policy

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

In an attempt to close the gap between himself and President Reagan, Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential challenger, has shifted to middle ground on a number of key foreign policy issues.

In a lengthy interview with *The New York Times*, he said he would favour some form of "quarantine" against Nicaragua if it continued to export revolution; voiced his support for President José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador, and said he would keep American military advisers there and in neighbouring Honduras.

He also said for the first time that he would have used force in Grenada "to protect American lives". Mr Mondale had criticized President Reagan's decision to use force when the invasion took place in October.

However, Mr Mondale emphasized that he would always try to seek negotiated solutions to international problems where possible and attacked President Reagan's tendency to rely on American military strength.

East Germans exploit Bonn-Rome rift

Berlin (Reuters) — East Germany yesterday seized on a dispute between Bonn and Rome to press demands that West Germany recognize its existence as a fully independent foreign state.

The Communist Party newspaper *Neue Deutschland* described as "downright scandalous" Bonn's formal protests to Rome over remarks by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, last week that the division of Germany should be maintained.

"One cannot advocate good relations with the GDR (East Germany) and at the same time get excited when one hears that governments of other countries accept there are two German states and that sensible relations between them serve peace," it said.

Western diplomats said the Bonn-Rome dispute, now smoothed over, would have been welcomed by communist officials in East Berlin as strengthening demands that West Germany give it full



Arms control challenge: Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, brandishing a document in Philadelphia, listing President Reagan's failure to support a single arms control agreement.

He said the President had only recently started to modify some of his foreign policy positions in order to make them more acceptable to the electorate.

"When this election is over, what will we see? Will we see the blandishments of the last two months of a President who is seeking re-election, or will there be the real Reagan who reappears?"

He accused the Administration of "carrying on the arms race rather than trying to get arms agreements" and of trying

to "win by force" in Central America.

Mr Mondale will have the opportunity to challenge President Reagan on his record when the two debate foreign policy issues on television on October 21.

This will be the second of two televised debates the candidates will hold. The first, on October 7, will deal with domestic and economic issues.

Cabaret dancer accused of running escape route

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

A group led by a Hungarian cabaret dancer alleged to be responsible for smuggling Czechs and Romanians into the West has been rounded up by police in Budapest, the official Hungarian news agency reported yesterday.

The agency said the men, Herr Josef Fleischer and Herr Josef Dietrich of West Germany, met Miss Eva Bogner in a Budapest night club in which she danced. With Mr Hermann Van Bommel, a Dutch lorry driver, she organized a series of border deals with Czechs and Romanians on holiday in Hungary. For between DM8,000 and DM10,000 they could buy a seat

in Mr Van Bommel's lorry bound for The Netherlands. Once out of Austria, the refugees could seek political asylum in either West Germany or The Netherlands.

According to the report, the group has also been charged with black market dealing in Western goods brought in from Romania. Four accomplices were also arrested.

The number of Czechs and Romanians visiting Hungary for holidays has risen this summer, according to diplomatic sources. Hungary appears likely to become a transit point for people wishing to escape into the West.

Journalists agree big salary cut

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Staff at the financially troubled United Press International news agency have agreed to a 25 per cent pay cut, as part of a plan to keep the agency afloat.

The company, which runs a worldwide news service, has been losing money for 20 years and this year has an operating deficit of £5.6m and owes about £7m.

The management hopes that pay cuts, lay-offs and other economies can avert closure.

UPI employs 2,000 people in 269 bureaux in the US and overseas. American editors have expressed concern that closure would leave the Associated Press, the largest American news agency, which has 300 bureaux across the world, without competition.

The 25 per cent pay cut has been agreed by the union which represents about half of UPI's employees. The plan is to restore pay to present levels by the end of next year. About 200 people are to be laid off.

How Karpov took lead in world chess

By Our Foreign Staff

The protagonists in the world chess championship rested yesterday in Moscow, with the reigning champion, Anatoly Karpov, basking in the superiority he gained on Monday over his challenger, Gary Kasparov.

Karpov established a one-nil lead in the open-ended series in which the first man to six outright wins takes the title. It was the third game — the first two having been drawn — and was considered by experts to be a positional masterpiece by Karpov.

Third game

White Karpov, Black Kasparov

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

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Canada's 40-strong Cabinet

Mulroney puts his team to work on economy

From John Best
Ottawa

Canada's new Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, has taken office with the biggest Federal Cabinet in the country's history. He has set it to work immediately grappling with problems of the Canadian economy.

The composition of 40-member Conservative Cabinet, sworn in on Monday, was dictated by the party's success in obtaining landslide support from all parts of Canada in the September 4 election.

Eleven of the ministers, including Mr Mulroney, are from Quebec, which elected 58 Tory MPs against only one who sat in the last, Liberal-dominated Parliament. That one, Mr Roch LaSalle, was rejected and has been awarded the post of Public Works Minister.

There are also 11 ministers from Ontario, including Mr Michael Wilson of Toronto, who takes over the most powerful economic portfolio, that of Finance Minister. Mr Wilson, a former businessman, held the relatively obscure post of Minister for International Trade in the short-lived Conservative administration of 1979-1980.

The head of that administration, the former Prime Minister Mr Joe Clark, is Minister for External Affairs in the new Government.

A total of 12 Ministers come from the four Western provinces, long a bastion of Conservative strength, while five are from the Atlantic provinces. One - the powerful Deputy



Securely in power: A closely guarded Mr Mulroney leaving Government House in Ottawa after being sworn in.

Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council, Mr Erik Nielsen - is from the Yukon territory.

Six women are in the Cabinet, also a Canadian record. They include Miss Flora MacDonald, who was External Affairs Minister in the last Conservative administration and is now Minister of Employment and Immigration.

All told, 16 members of the 1979-1980 government are in the new Cabinet, which also includes Mr George Hees, a veteran Tory MP, who was a prominent member of the government of the late Prime Minister, Mr John Diefenbaker, in the 1960s. Mr Hees, aged 74, is Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Mr Clark, while delighted to get the External Affairs portfolio - he had made no secret of

the fact that he wanted it - will not be happy that some of its authority has been stripped away.

As part of the Cabinet reorganization, Mr Mulroney abolished the Committee on External Affairs and Defence, of which the External Affairs Minister usually acted as chairman. The committee's responsibilities will be taken over by the Committee on Priorities and Planning, headed by the Prime Minister himself.

Immediately after Monday's swearing-in at Government House, Mr Mulroney called the Cabinet together for a brief session to clarify ministers' individual responsibilities.

Yesterday the Prime Minister presided over the Cabinet's first working session.

THE MULRONEY CABINET

Prime Minister: Brian Mulroney
Minister of Veterans Affairs: George Hees
Senate Government Leader: Cliff Roblin
Minister of External Affairs: Joe Clark
Minister of Employment and Immigration: Flora MacDonald
Deputy Prime Minister: President of Privy Council: Erik Nielsen
Minister of Justice: John Cross
Minister of Public Works: Roch LaSalle
Minister of Transport: Don Mazankowski
Solicitor General: Elmer Mackay
Minister of Health and Welfare: John Epp
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans: John Fraser
Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion: Sinclair Stewart
Minister of Agriculture: John Harty
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development: David Crombie
President of the Treasury Board: Robert de Cotret
Minister of National Revenue: Patry Beatty
Minister of Finance: Michael Wilson
Minister of National Defence: Robert Coates
Minister of State (Multiculturalism): Jack Muris
Minister of Supply and Services: Harvie Andra
Minister of State (Finance and Amateur Sport): Otto Jelinek
Minister of Science and Technology: Tom Siddons
Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board): Charles Mayne
Minister of Labour: Bill McKeough
Secretary of State: Walter McLean
Minister of State (Tourism): Tom McMillan
Minister of Energy: Pat Carney
Minister of State (Small Business): Andre Blais
Minister of the Environment: Suzanne Blais-Grier
Minister of State (Transport): Benoit Bouchard
Minister of State (Youth): Andre Champagne
Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs: Michel Cote
Minister of International Trade: James Kalisher
Minister of State (Indian): Robert Layton
Minister of Communications: Marcel Masson
Minister of State (Finance): Barbara McDougall
Minister of State (Forestry): Garth Morrison
Minister for External Relations: Monique Vézina
Those marked with an asterisk served in the Clark administration.

Madrid airport in strike chaos

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Iberia, the Spanish state airline, decided to cancel about 150 scheduled flights yesterday as the third day of an indefinite strike by maintenance men caused havoc, particularly at Madrid's Barajas Airport.

The airline, which has still not fully recovered from a five-week pilots' strike during the summer, has declined to reinstate 63 dismissed technicians and has threatened to take on newly qualified personnel.

The wildcat strike of 1,700 maintenance men, which is not backed by Spain's main trade unions, is in pursuit of improved status.

Spain's Enrique Barón, the Transport Minister, declined yesterday to intervene directly, but told Iberia to concentrate on transatlantic flights and those serving the Balearics and Canaries.

At Barajas there were large crowds sitting on their luggage or vainly milling around the information computers. Since the June pilots' stoppage, Iberia has been widely criticised for its public relations with would-be passengers.

Iberia made losses of more than £142m last year, and persistent troubles between airline management and staff have led to demands in the press for the Government to consider privatization.

More Nicaraguan parties threaten to boycott elections

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Several moderate and left-wing opposition parties taking part in general elections in Nicaragua say they may yet join the right-wing parties in boycotting the elections if the tense climate of the campaign does not improve.

The Democratic Conservatives and the Independent Liberals to the right of the ruling Sandinista Front and the Socialists, a traditional communist party to the left of the Government, agree that after a month of campaigning entirely free electoral conditions still do not exist.

They complain of unfair access to scarce resources such as paper, ink and paint, tyres to keep their transport on the road, and cases of intimidation by Sandinista activists. But the parties are principally concerned that a general climate of fear may be keeping their supporters away from public meetings.

The Conservatives and the Liberals managed to draw only lethargic crowds of several hundred to rallies last weekend in the southern provincial capital of Rivas, where their support before the Sandinista revolution was traditionally strong.

Party leaders believe people are staying at home from fear that Sandinista organizations which control rationed food supplies will take reprisals against those seen at opposition gatherings. They also say that large numbers of public employees are staying away in the belief that attendance might cost them their jobs.

Señor Clemente Guido, the Conservative presidential candidate, said: "People are frightened. The process has to be free of any type of pressure, whether political or economic."

We will analyse our campaign at our national conference in the middle of next month and decide whether to go to the polls or not. We will not become the Government's accomplice by giving validity to bad elections."

The Independent Liberals, who have voiced similar concerns, are to make their final decision later this month. But their presidential candidate, Señor Virgilio Godoy, said he recognized a great responsibility since further withdrawals would only rob the elections of any vestige of legitimacy and lead to more bloodshed.

The Government, which has been drawing crowds of several thousand to its public meetings, attributes the poor turnout at opposition meetings to lack of support.

It denies that state coercion is keeping opposition supporters indoors and has sent a circular from campaign headquarters to activists around the country urging them not to allow over-zealousness to hinder the other parties.

US-Soviet dialogue pleases UN

From Zdziana Pysarski
New York

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, welcomed the coming talks between President Reagan and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, as a first step in easing East-West tension and disarmament.

He was speaking during a press conference on the eve of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, during which delegates will have East-West relations uppermost in their minds.

The General said that the entire world awaited anxiously the resumption of meaningful negotiations between the nuclear powers to end the arms race, which he called a nightmare.

On the Falklands, question he said the stalemate between Britain and Argentina was no reason for despair. He would have talks with President Raúl Alfonsín and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, to ascertain points of common ground.

The secretary general said he was neither pessimistic nor optimistic on the Cyprus talks, which have gone into their second week. He hoped progress could be made between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities by the end of the present round of negotiations on a set of working points outlining a solution.

Koreans to meet again on flood aid

From David Watts
Tokyo

Wreathed in smiles, representatives of the North and South Korean Red Cross organizations met yesterday to test each others' intentions across the narrow table which provides the only contact point between the two countries.

But the smiles were not so much at the pleasure of the first joint Red Cross meeting in seven years as at the finer points of the diplomatic fencing match over the North's offer of flood relief for the South. After five-and-a-half hours of talks in the Panmunjom truce village, it was very much a diplomatic draw, with a replay set for Friday.

The North Korean representatives, distinguishable from their Southern counterparts by the Kim Il Sung buttons in their lapels, proposed that rice, textiles, cement and medical supplies be delivered by ship to Incheon, Pusan and Sokcho and by radio to Seoul.

The South responded by proposing that the seaborne goods go to Incheon, West of Seoul, and the eastern port of Pusan. The North agreed, but there was deadlock over the delivery of supplies by lorry to Seoul.

The South Korean Red Cross, well aware of the propaganda value, said road delivery was not in line with past Red Cross practice.

A new benefit for some long-term sick and disabled people. Our leaflet explains who's eligible.

Persecuted Tibetans get cash and jobs back

From David Bonavia, Peking

More than 1,000 prominent Tibetans have been rehabilitated in the last five years after being persecuted on unjust charges, some dating back to the 1960s, according to Radio Lhasa.

Some £300,000-worth of compensation has been paid out for salaries docked during the Cultural Revolution period (1966-76), the broadcast said. The rehabilitated political victims are now working in the regional congress, Buddhist organs and the Government. Memorial ceremonies have been held for those who have died.

About 50m-worth of livestock has been allocated to former herd-owners and to

monasteries whose herds were confiscated in the period of "socialist reform" which followed the armed uprising against Chinese rule in 1958 and the Dalai Lama's flight to India in the following year.

Negotiations are taking place to pave the way for a visit to Tibet by the Dalai Lama. According to the Peking leadership, he may return to Tibet as a spiritual leader if he wishes, but without the secular authority he once enjoyed.

Arrangements have been made to ease the living conditions of members of the former Tibetan Army who did not take part in the uprising, as well as aged lamas.

Zapu to hold its first congress for 10 years

From Jan Raath
Harare

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of Zapu, announced that his party is to hold its first congress in 10 years next month, despite "intimidation and harassment" by the Government and the ruling party, Zanu.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, he said 8,000 delegates were expected to attend the four-day congress, starting on October 12, in a sports stadium here. He was evasive over whether he had sought permission to hold the meeting, as Zimbabwe's state of emergency legislation requires all parties to do for public gatherings.

Mr Henry Murewanhema, Police Commissioner for Operations, said Mr Nkomo had made no such approach.

Zapu has been banned from holding meetings in the Midlands, West and Mashonaland. Seven people were killed in July and hundreds injured when supporters of Zapu stormed townships in search of adherents of other political parties.

Export licence for Moscow's Belgian lathe

From Frederick Bonniot
Brussels

Pégaré, the Belgian machine tool company, about to go into liquidation last month, because it was refused a licence to export a high-technology tool and die lathe to the Soviet Union, has now been granted a licence to export five.

In August a computer-guided lathe destined for the Soviet state machine import company was stopped on the quayside at Antwerp on the orders of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, who claimed it would be used to make SS20 and SS21 missile parts. The lathe was finally bought by the Belgian Army with US assistance.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has confirmed that the minister, Mr Mark Eyskens, signed the export licence on Monday evening, but said that Pégaré was making only the lathe bodies, the computers were being manufactured in West Germany, where the Government was responsible for the relevant licences.

From November 29th 1984 some long-term sick and disabled people will be able to claim a new benefit if they are unable to work and don't qualify for Sickness or Invalidity Benefit.

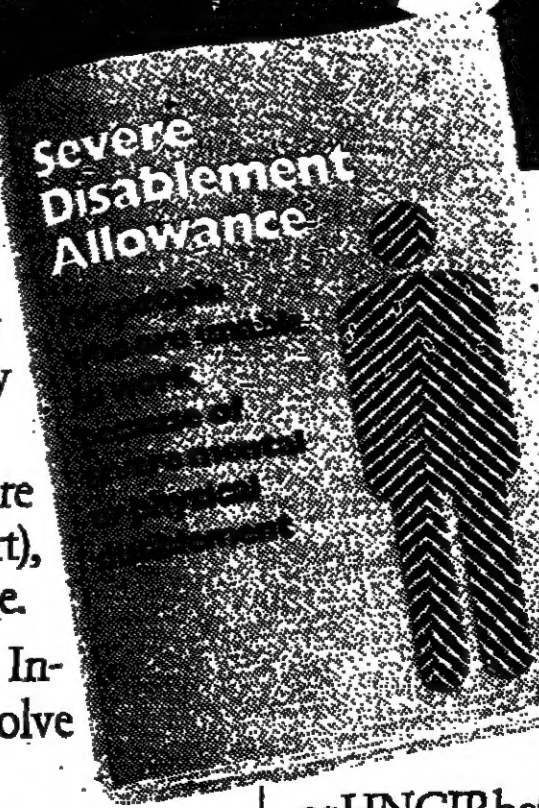
The new benefit is called Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA for short), and will be worth £21.50 a week, tax free.

It does not depend on National Insurance contributions, and doesn't involve a means test.

SDA replaces Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (NCIP) and Housewives' Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (HNCIP).

Everyone who already gets NCIP or HNCIP will be transferred to SDA automatically in November 1984.

The main difference between SDA and the present benefits is that married women will be able to claim SDA even if they are able to carry out normal household duties.



People who have been incapable of work since before their 20th birthday can qualify for SDA simply on that basis. Those who become incapable of work later in life must also be severely disabled to qualify.

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SPECTRUM

Agatha stages a triumph

In the final part of our series Janet Morgan describes how Agatha Christie adapted some of her books for the theatre, and the very first performance of *The Mousetrap* 32 years ago

As Agatha's fame grew, so did her correspondence from admirers. Some asked for advice; others sent plots. She declined to read unsolicited manuscripts (the successful author's bane) and refused well-meant suggestions by saying that she preferred to do her plotting herself.

She was never short of ideas. A train of thought might be prompted by an object, a place, a quotation, some overheard remark or unexpected sight. She always described herself as being unobservant, but for people's habits and bearing Agatha had a noticing ear and eye.

The plotting books show Agatha's mind at work, taking up an idea, playing with it, making increasingly elaborate variations, turning it inside out. There are more than 30 of these books, of all shapes and sizes. They cannot be indexed, though Agatha made a brave try late in life, because the notes for several stories are frequently intertwined, a single idea being developed in different ways, dropped and taken up again, or combined with others.

It was not possessiveness alone which made Agatha resist the blandishments to those who begged to televise her characters, put them on radio or stage or film. She and her agent Edmund Cork - guarded her creations with an eye as much to business as to artistry, but Agatha's reasoning went deeper than either. She preferred her characters to remain nebulous; even the picture of Poirot on a book-jacket pained her. Agatha's people, their appearance and surroundings, were created as archetypes, intelligible anywhere, in any epoch.

She understood that her books could be adapted for the stage only with great care, preferring to make the necessary amendments herself. "This could be managed," she had assured Cork in 1942, in the discussions over *Ten Little Niggers*, "but I would have to do it." To suit the story to the stage, she drastically altered the end, as she did again in her adaptation of *Death on the Nile*. "Less explanation - more action - I think there was too much reasoning before."

"There is a large class of my books," she explained to Cork, which is not full of 'thrills' and 'humour', such as, for instance, *Towards Zero*, *Sparkling Cyanide*, *Five Little Pigs*, *Sad Cypress*, *The Hollow* etc. And you really can't turn a Class B story into a Class A story. Major surgery might be needed: 'the method of killing' in

Towards Zero was, for example, 'not at all suitable, as difficult to explain', and *Murder at the Vicarage* was as 'it stood too complicated, particularly the clock business... Utterly confusing to an audience and one of those things which in a book you sit down and puzzle out...'

The *Mousetrap* opened in Nottingham in October 1952. Though the play needed minor adjustments, Peter Saunders was happy with it, if not terribly excited. Agatha, who was there, thought it 'quite a nice little play' and forecast a run of six months or so. There is a myth that she wept and declared it a disaster; nothing could be less true. All seats were full for the first three months and it continued to prosper.

Agatha was quietly amused, keeping an eye on her creation by discreetly dropping into the theatre from time to time and reporting any lack of polish. The launching of *The Mousetrap* in fact marked an important moment. Agatha had learnt to apply her knack to the theatre. Here, too, she instinctively understood what the public wanted.

Like her books, her plays had a strong story, a mixture of tragedy and comedy, and a swift pace. Her acts and scenes, like her chapters and paragraphs, closed at exactly the right point, and, as she stimulated her readers by constantly providing new information, so she presented her audience with a succession of characters and possible relationships. Like her books, her plays were intellectually demanding but safe; violence occurred off stage.

By now Agatha knew her audience as she knew her readers, and her producers, like her editors, acknowledged it. She judged casts and sets as coolly as titles and plots and she was rarely mistaken. Her theatrical touch was sure. But she could sometimes write extraordinarily badly, her grammar uncertain and her sentences full of tired metaphors.

A reader whose attention is urgently fixed on a story might overlook these deficiencies but critics, lingering on each passage, are appalled. Such sentences can sound even more strikingly stilted and wrought with clichés when read aloud and many actors, forbidden to deviate from her text for fear that artfully placed clues might thereby be lost, have found themselves struggling to make the dialogue in her pre-films work sound natural. Scriptwriting and, later, using a dictaphone, had a



Writer in residence: Agatha Christie two years before she died.

Photograph by Snowden

noticeably beneficial effect on Agatha's style. She had in any case the advantage of an excellent ear for tricks of speech and unusual phrases. Her dialogue tends to ring true in those books which venture into 'other worlds', whether of students, crazy ideologues, messy adolescents or eleventh Dynasty Egyptians.

She read vastly: a wide range of books, including anything that anyone (children, the cook, philosophers) brought into the house, and an assortment of newspapers, including the *Daily Mirror* and the *Telegraph*. She did not like the radio or television but listened closely to other people's conversation, noticing popular catchphrases as soon as they became current. Agatha did not talk much herself, except among her immediate family, and some of those who recall her conversation as brilliant are in fact remembering how

fluently they talked themselves, drawn out by an attentive listener, who occasionally prompted them or produced some witty remark.

If there always remained something slightly 'staged' about the conversation in Agatha's novels, it perhaps derives from that withdrawn personality: the talk in her books was vicarious, planned. Using a dictaphone did not, however, seriously affect the tightness of Agatha's plotting or the consistency of the details of her narrative. In the 1960s loose ends appeared more often in her books, and there were slips and omissions, but these owed more to advancing age than to a change in working habits.

Many readers objected to 'anti-Semitic' and 'anti-Catholic' allusions in her work. Sensitive readers were certainly struck by Agatha's blunt and often uncompromising references to her Jewish

characters. (There are in fact no disparaging allusions to Catholics.) The triviality of these remarks made them no less hurtful. *The Mysterious Mr. Quin*, for example, had a passage about 'men of Hebrew extraction, sallow men with hooked noses, wearing flamboyant jewellery', and *Peril at End House* a condescending reference to 'the long-nosed Mr. Lazarus', an art dealer, whom another character described as 'a Jew, of course, but a frightfully decent one'.

It was only after the war however, that Agatha's publishers and then just her American publishers, began to receive protesting letters: 'It is a downright shame', Dodd Mead was told, 'to see an institution such as yours, which could be used in the interests of a permanent peace, publish such trash.' An unidentified reference in *The Hollow* had been found especially offensive. Mead was

given permission to change such references. Ober also arranged that Dodd Mead should cease to forward correspondence from the public directly to Agatha.

Agatha mirrored in her book the attitudes of her class and generation, 'the usual tedious British anti-Semitism', as the historian Jacques Barzun called it in *A Catalogue of Crime*, prejudices that were also displayed in, for example, the work of John Buchan and M. R. James. Agatha's unsophisticated generalizations about Jews and Jewishness are a reminder that she did not share the inhibitions of a generation sensitised by the sufferings of the Levittes in *Giant's Bread* shows that she could also write delicately and sympathetically about the prejudices a Jewish family encountered among upper class English people.

The phrases with which Agatha offended were painful not because they were vicious but because they seemed flippant; when she eventually met truly fanatical anti-Semitism she was, like many of her compatriots, incredulous. She described in her *Autobiography* her first encounter with National Socialism, in 1933, when the Director of Antiquities in Baghdad, a fierce Nazi, astounded her with a passionate outburst: 'his face changed in an extraordinary way that I had never noticed on anyone's face before'.

She was particularly irritated by *Thirteen for Luck*, presented by Dodd Mead in the United States in 1961 as a 'selection of mystery stories for young readers.' 'My books,' she objected 'are written for adults and always have been... I hate this "silly teenager business".'

Her thoughts turned almost invariably to one theme. Nearly everything she wrote was about crime and its detection. The explanation is very simple: she could do it, she liked doing it, and it was her life. Quiet and competent, Agatha taught herself the trick of writing detective stories. Their length was one with which she was comfortable; she discovered exactly when to break each paragraph and close each chapter, she had a genius for titles and for plotting, and she was scholarly about checking medical, legal and typographical detail. As a girl she had abandoned a career as a pianist or a singer because she was not sufficiently talented; having found her shelter, she kept to it.

Her mind returned constantly to plots and their unravelling. Secretive, oblique, clever at solving problems, she instinctively gave a twist to a tale. Agatha was moreover, a comfortable, sensible, ordinary person, and ordinary people are interested in good and evil, innocence and guilt. 'I am of the same belief as Dorothy Sayers,' she told a correspondent, 'that the detective story is the direct successor of the old Morality Play. It is the triumph of good over evil - the deliverance of the innocent from the aggressor - that is what makes it exciting.'

© Agatha Christie: A Biography by Janet Morgan, to be published by Collins tomorrow, £12.95.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Moreover Enterprises Ltd are pleased and proud to present a world exclusive: the first ever interview with Prince Henry! The second son of Prince Charles and third in line to the throne was awake during the entire interview and hardly cried at all. Moreover: We understand that you are not allowed to accept a fee for this interview, but we shall of course put an agreed sum into a trust fund for you so that in case the royal family has gone professional by the time you are 21, it will be waiting for you. Till then, mum's the word.

Henry: Mum. Moreover: Exactly. Your Highness, there has been a great deal of speculation over the names chosen for you, ever since they have been announced. You will be known officially as Prince Henry and to the family as Harry, but do you in fact prefer one of your other names? (Silence) Or is there some other name which you would rather be called?

Henry: Gurg. Moreover: Well, Prince Gurg, the royal family have always been known as great travellers and already in your short life you have visited Paddington, where indeed you started life, as well as Kensington where you were to move later. Do you find this constant travel tiring or do you find that you have managed to adapt well to your royal duties? And what did you reckon to the Bayswater Road?

Henry: Huh? Moreover: That's the big one beside Hyde Park with all the paintings on the railings on a Sunday, which indeed was the very day you passed along it. Have you always been interested in art or do you think you are more likely to inherit your father's talent for the cello or indeed for imitating Goon Show voices?

Henry: Ooorm! Moreover: Very good, Prince Gurg, you must have met many members of the royal family in your life, many more than most of us. To put it another way, there must have been some very funny moments in life at the Palace and I wonder if there is one that has particularly amused you?

Henry: Ye-ee-erg... Moreover: The moment you dribbled all over the Moreover interviewer?

Henry: Eek. Moreover: Well, that is certainly a blunt response, not unreminiscent of the forthright attitude of your grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Henry: Gurg? Moreover: The tall one going thin on top.

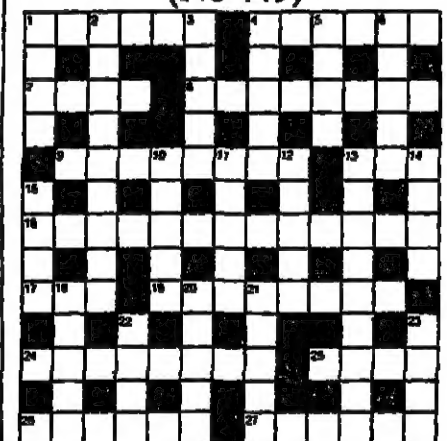
Henry: Nur. Moreover: Well, a little thin on top, Prince Gurg, you have been very forthcoming in your answers to my questions at a time when you must be very tired and a little confused by suddenly finding yourself only three away from the throne of England. If you have time for one more question...

Henry: Gargh. Moreover: ... might I ask if you have a message for our readers?

Henry: Nurg. Moreover: Nurg, says Prince Gurg. Your Highness - thank you.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 449)



- ACROSS
- 1 Dainty (6)
 - 4 Seize in transit (6)
 - 7 Nonsense poet (4)
 - 8 Wealth (8)
 - 9 Widely epidemic (8)
 - 13 Vetch (3)
 - 16 Trying to cage (2,3,8)
 - 17 Before (3)
 - 19 Serrated (3,5)
 - 24 Marble floor (8)
 - 25 Mountain goat (4)
 - 26 Short-sighted (6)
 - 27 Tricked (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Fonder (4)
 - 2 Formal assurance (9)
 - 3 Lasso (5)
 - 5 Alluring woman (5)
 - 6 Military runabout (4)
 - 8 Spherical bacteria (5)
 - 10 Attire (5)
 - 11 Parrot (5)
 - 12 Throng (5)
 - 13 Explosive person (9)
 - 14 At home of (4)
 - 15 Inside spy (4)
 - 18 Stroll (5)
 - 20 Australian soldier (5)
 - 21 Era (5)
 - 22 Support (4)
 - 23 Chopped (4)

SOLUTION TO No 448
ACROSS: 1 Catches 5 Pick 8 Pubs 9 Romanic 11 Roubike 13 Ann 15 Bridge builder 17 Tich 18 Kerchief 21 Mistook 22 Gesso 23 Crux 24 Ranger
DOWN: 2 Zebec 3 Cos 4 Strike breaker 5 Lime 6 Centred 7 Opprobrium 10 Contrailow 12 Loge 14 C in C 16 Incisor 19 Issue 20 Boon 22 Gun

The music man who keeps the maestros in tune



Piano tuner Robert Glazebrook

Wherever there is a concert given by one of the world's top pianists the chances are that the piano tuner - who pays nearly as much attention to the performer as the instrument - will be Bob Glazebrook.

Mr Glazebrook, aged 56, is now the general manager of Steinway UK but remains a real 'piano man' at heart and still spends half his time regulating and tuning for the world's top 20 performers.

His big break came with Rosalyn Tureck. 'It was 1955. She was recording the Goldberg Variations at EMI on Abbey Road. She was unhappy with the piano and the tuner, and the sessions were falling to pieces. I was the only man on the premises. I expected disaster.'

'There she was, pacing up and down. The producer had his head in his hands. Things were at a low level. I realized immediately that the piano was all wrong for Bach. She went home and I worked on it for four hours. When she came back she was very pleased, and from then on she'd never have anyone else tune for her.'

Glazebrook continued: 'Take Curzon. Very nervous he was. He had to have a music stand on the piano at concerts, even though he didn't use music. He couldn't stand seeing the mechanism dancing up and down...'

'Or Radu Lupu. He sits on an ordinary

chair, not a piano stool. At the Royal Festival Hall he uses one from the restaurant. But we get him the one with the special mark on it.'

'Rubinstein. His contract specified his fee, a particular piano and me. I'd arrange everything: lighting, the height of the stool, his dressing room. And of course the hairspray. He had a dry skin, Rubinstein. His fingers polished up the keys until they were as slippery as glass. Hairspray gave grip. So I'd keep a little can of the stuff up my sleeve, and during the interval, while I was adjusting the piano, I'd pass my hand over the keys and give them a discreet spray.'

'Or Horowitz. He came here a few years ago. First time for 30 years. Now Horowitz really creates his own pianos. I didn't want him coming over here for the first time in 30 years and not like the piano. In New York he has his own piano in our basement. I had it flown over...'

In the end, of course, the piano is very important. 'Before the war, artists travelled with their own pianos. Rachmaninoff kept three at Steinways for his personal use. Now we keep them for certain artists, particular instruments on which they have priority, although I occasionally let them out for someone else. It's good for a piano to have an airing. We have 25 to 30

concert grands available - they cost about £25,000 each - and eight are specially earmarked. 'The artist doesn't need to ring me up. I just send him piano. I make sure that two top men don't have the same one, although I remember once Ashkenazi came in and tried piano 860. He said it was ideal. I said 'That's a Rubinstein piano. You can use it as long as you know he has priority...'

Steinways are found everywhere. In China when western music came back into vogue after Mao's death in 1976, and six year olds began playing Chopin again, the Chinese asked Glazebrook to come and show them how to put their pianos back in shape.

'I first went there in 1982. I surprised them. I was the manager and in China managers don't touch anything with their hands. I worked with their regulators and tuners. I loved them but we had to go right back to the beginning...'

This year, in April, Glazebrook went to China again, where the European Community Youth Orchestra and Radu Lupu were to perform in Canton, Shanghai, and Peking.

'That Canton piano was the worst one I ever saw,' Glazebrook says. It was 48 hours before Lupu was to play the Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. 'As far

as I could see, no one had done it anything but harm for 30 years.'

For two days, watched by jittery local tuners, Glazebrook took the piano to bits. An hour before the concert he had done what he could. Lupu warmed up a bit and said to the apprehensive Glazebrook, 'Nice job. Maybe this is the sound Beethoven heard.' Glazebrook frowned and replied: 'Maybe. But Beethoven was deaf.'

A week later in Peking, reputedly the home of China's best piano, Glazebrook ripped keys even yellower than those in Canton and, on the morning before the concert, heard only a dismal clunking. 'It's dead.' The Chinese technicians were aghast. Surely within 11 hours...?

Eventually another was located miles across the city, in a dark corner shrouded by hanging carpets. Ten feet away, the Central Orchestra, muffled in overcoats were playing 'Til Eulenspiegel.

In the dark Glazebrook tickled the ivories. 'Now that's a piano.' A van appeared and he had five hours to bring the piano to 'nearly acceptable London standard.'

It was exotic but routine. 'I've never, ever, cancelled a concert because of the piano', Glazebrook says firmly.

Jonathan Mirsky

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Intimate revelations of a Tsar's passion

Lovers still send ecstatic letters to each other but, as a Christie's auction shows today, few can have written as many as Alexander II and his princess



Before I conducted a straw poll among my friends asking "Do you ever get love letters?" I had assumed Buzby would have picked them out of existence.

On the contrary. Far from being ousted by the telephone, the exquisite thrill of writing, and even more so of receiving, a letter seems as popular as ever it was in the age of romanticism.

Even a hard-nosed feminist in her global satellite-linked office confessed she wrote "really slushy stuff" when she was separated from her husband.

Once or twice I was answered with one of those coy sideline glances former movie queens used to reserve for camera close-ups, intimating seductive secrets tied up with blue ribbon. And a Cambridge graduate, blushing at being asked in front of his chortling family admitted: "Well yes. But it's a bit embarrassing to think about them now we no longer see each other."

Quite. But keeping love letters is part of the pleasure and presumably why a well-preserved batch of 965 between Tsar Alexander II and his mistress, Princess Catherine Dolgorouka are available for auction at Christie's today. They were love letter writers of extraordinary dedication, thoughtfully numbering and dating each one for the voyeur of posterity.

He addressed her as "my angel" and she started all her

letters to him with "my husband" although when their torrid affair began he was married to a German Empress called Marie and Catherine was only 17. Their letters are full of agonizing justifications that such a perfect union as theirs must be condoned by God if not by society. "In the eyes of God you are my husband," appears a lot, an argument doubtless familiar to the scores of Christians filing through the divorce courts nowadays.

The Princess was frequently banished by her family from St Petersburg to escape the Tsar's attentions and the scandal, but she could never stay away for long. She would send anguished coded telegrams signed "Koffman" from the Polish frontier warning him of her arrival. "My heart flies to you" she would say.

Sending coded love messages by telegram can be a risky business as I discovered years ago when I did the same and it turned up on the telex machine of the newspaper where I was working. Executives monitoring the rumblings of a war in Cyprus at the time formed a bubble round this strange

missive trying to decipher what it could mean, as I watched in consternation.

Eventually light dawned on one of them (him for whom it was intended) and he smoothly commandeered the tear sheet. He'd got the message all right.

One of my friends told me she became so carried away by her affair with a married army captain she proposed him to general in her letters because she loved him madly and thought he merited the elevation. It seemed harmless enough except that happened to be a general with the same surname who opened it, read the purple prose and the flak, as they say, fairly hit the fan.

The possibility of having their intimate thoughts exposed rarely, of course, occurs to lovers. Certainly the besotted Tsar would never have dreamt their private word for love making "bingerle", with which their letters are littered, would be made public. Nor that the auctioneer's hammer would put a value on his saucy descriptions of what they did the evening before, or morning or afternoon. It seems their "bingerle" was cleverly organized so

never progressed beyond the platonic stage.

For students of Russian history their letters would make very disappointing reading for the Tsar never writes about politics, or court gossip and talks dismissively about his duties. According to Christie's manuscript expert, Brigid Allen, who has translated the letters, he comes across as a man who would be far happier as a devoted suburban husband and father.

That I find hard to believe, except that love letters do sometimes take on a life of their own. A psychologist told me a shy man will write sensual poetry because he is too embarrassed to say those sort of things face to face but whether he remains shy or is transformed into a raver must depend on the follow-up.

One acquaintance let me peek at letters sent to her by an immensely reserved man who had been her boyfriend. I was astounded they were from the same person. Yet even though he could express himself with such fulsome ardour in a letter, she told me their relationship

never progressed beyond the platonic stage.

Interviewing her made me realize there is an aspect of love letters I hadn't considered before. If there is an art to writing them there seems, equally, an art in getting them too. She is now receiving love letters from a new admirer trying to make his name in New York who says things like "I want you to be proud of me". So how does she do it?

Simply by writing letters herself. She doesn't start off writing love letters, but she is a great letter writer. If you write them someone writes back and so it goes on until you get into the habit, which it must have become for the Tsar and his mistress who wrote to each other every day for years and years with refreshing devotion.

They wrote in French with no crossings out, the thoughts flowing unchecked, although sometimes the Tsar lapsed into Russian when he needed to express himself in more passionately earthy terms, and they both signed off in Russian with "yours forever."

unshed octavo paper, just after seeing each other, adding bits to them throughout the day so each would know what the other had been doing. "It was so lovely to see you. I can still see the happiness in your eyes. I am sitting down at my desk and I am doing my favourite thing which is write to you. Now I am going to sleep."

Rather prosaic stuff but in its own way just as touching as the overblown outpourings of a Keats to his Fanny. Alexander II wrote to his loved one as if he were talking to her: "I saw you at the ball last night looking pale and I wondered . . . Why he should wonder in that veiled way when they both knew she was pregnant is a mystery, unless he was worried that his letter would be intercepted."

In the event Catherine had a miscarriage which was another scandal the family tried to hush up by packing her off to take the waters elsewhere but she returned as ever.

The affair lasted almost 20 years and she eventually gave birth to two children, first a boy, then a girl, by which time there wasn't much left to be scandalized about.

Their love affair almost had a happy ending for after the Empress died the Tsar and Catherine were at last able to marry, but he was assassinated a year later in 1881.

Heather Kirby

Alexander II: 965 letters during a 20-year affair



Taste the apple of your eye all the year round

Apples are always available, usually cheap and sometimes even free. New ideas for using them are always welcome and The Apple Book by Jane Simpson and Gill MacLennan is being published by The Bodley Head on September 27, price £4.95, just in time for the apple harvest. Gill MacLennan, the senior cookery writer of Woman's Realm, is the third of our four guest columnists.

It's hard to think of a fruit that has more all-round appeal than the apple. And it would be very difficult to find a better time to sample the new season's orchard-fresh flavours.

Tart or sweet, for eating or cooking, the apple is a versatile ingredient in so many recipes, from soups, sauces and savoury dishes to our favourite homely apple pudd.

If you have been blessed with a tree that is groaning with fruit, you can preserve some of their autumn freshness until the nights start getting brighter again. Late varieties store especially well. Pick them before they are ripe, place them in a bucket and leave them to cool off overnight.

Discard any that are even slightly damaged or have no stalk. Store in seed trays that greenkeepers are usually happy to give away, in a cool dark room well away from potatoes, pears or anything with a strong smell such as paint or onions.

Slip screws of newspapers between them so that they don't touch one another and check frequently for any suspect fruit. A rotten apple is as infectious as a child with measles!

If you prefer to savour them now try them in these very different ways - tossed in a buttery lemon toffee and topped with a glowing cheese pastry for an unusual pie, in home-made sausages dusty with sage or in a melt-in-the-mouth blue cheese quiche with a superb nutty pastry.

Blue Cheese and Apple Quiche on Walnut Pastry Serves four

Pastry 225g (8oz) wholemeal flour

GUEST COOK

Gill MacLennan

Pinch of salt
110g (4oz) butter
55g (2oz) walnut pieces
1 egg

Filling
170g (6oz) Lymeswold cheese
170g (6oz) Dolcelatte
110g (4oz) smoked ham
2 small sweet eating apples
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon caster sugar
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 eggs

To make the pastry: place the flour and salt in a bowl. Add the butter, cut into small pieces and rub in with the fingertips until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Finely chop walnuts and stir in. Lightly beat the egg and mix well to a firm dough. Roll the pastry out to a large circle 7mm (¼ in) thick and line a 20cm (8 in) fluted flan tin.

Prick the base with a fork and chill for 30 minutes. Place the tin on a baking sheet, cover the pastry base with a sheet of greaseproof paper, fill with dried beans and bake blind in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and bake for a further 10 minutes. Reduce heat to moderate (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4).

To make the filling, remove the rind from the cheeses and cut into small pieces, trim the fat from the ham and chop, peel, core and finely chop the apples. Place the cheese, ham and apples in a heatproof bowl with the milk, sugar, salt and plenty of pepper.

Place the bowl over a pan of boiling water and stir gently until the cheese has melted. Remove from the heat, lightly whisk the eggs and stir in. Pour the mixture into the pastry case and bake in the centre of the moderate oven for 40 to 45 minutes or until the filling is well risen and dark golden.

Home-made sausages with grated apple and herbs Serves four

450g (1lb) minced pork
225g (8oz) minced veal
1 tablespoon fresh chopped sage
Pinch of dried marjoram
30g (1oz) fresh breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper
3 sweet eating apples
Flour to coat

The Times Cook, Shona Crawford Poole, will be back on October 3.

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Place the pork, veal, sage, marjoram, breadcrumbs, salt and pepper in a bowl. Peel, core and finely grate the apples and add them to the bowl. Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly.

Sprinkle a little flour on to the work surface. Spoon out even-sized balls of the mixture and roll them in the flour to make chunky sausage shapes.

Grill for eight to ten minutes until evenly browned.

Cheese and apple pie Serves six to eight

Pastry
170g (6oz) plain flour
Pinch of salt
Pinch of mustard powder
110g (4oz) butter
110g (4oz) Red Leicester cheese
1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon water
Beaten egg to glaze

Filling
1 medium-size lemon
55g (2oz) unsalted butter
55g (2oz) dark soft brown sugar
900g (2lb) sweet eating apples

To make the pastry, sieve the flour, salt and mustard powder in a bowl. Coarsely grate in the butter, scoop some flour on to the grater from time to time to stop the butter sticking, and finely grate in the cheese. Stir lightly to mix. Lightly whisk the egg yolk and the water together and add, stirring well to make a firm dough.

To make the filling, finely grate the lemon rind and squeeze the juice. Melt the butter in a large pan, add the sugar, lemon rind and juice and shake the pan over a medium heat to make a soft toffee.

Do not stir or the sugar will crystallize. Peel, core and slice the apples into the pan and toss lightly to coat. Pour into a 1.75l (3 pint) pie dish.

Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to an oval larger than the pie dish about 7mm (¼ in) thick. Cut a strip from round the edge of the pastry and press it in to the lip of the pie dish. Brush with a beaten egg.

Arrange the pastry over the top of the filling and press the edges well to seal. Trim off the excess pastry and knock up the edge with the back of a knife.

Mark a pattern with a fork, flute the edge and brush the pastry well with a beaten egg.

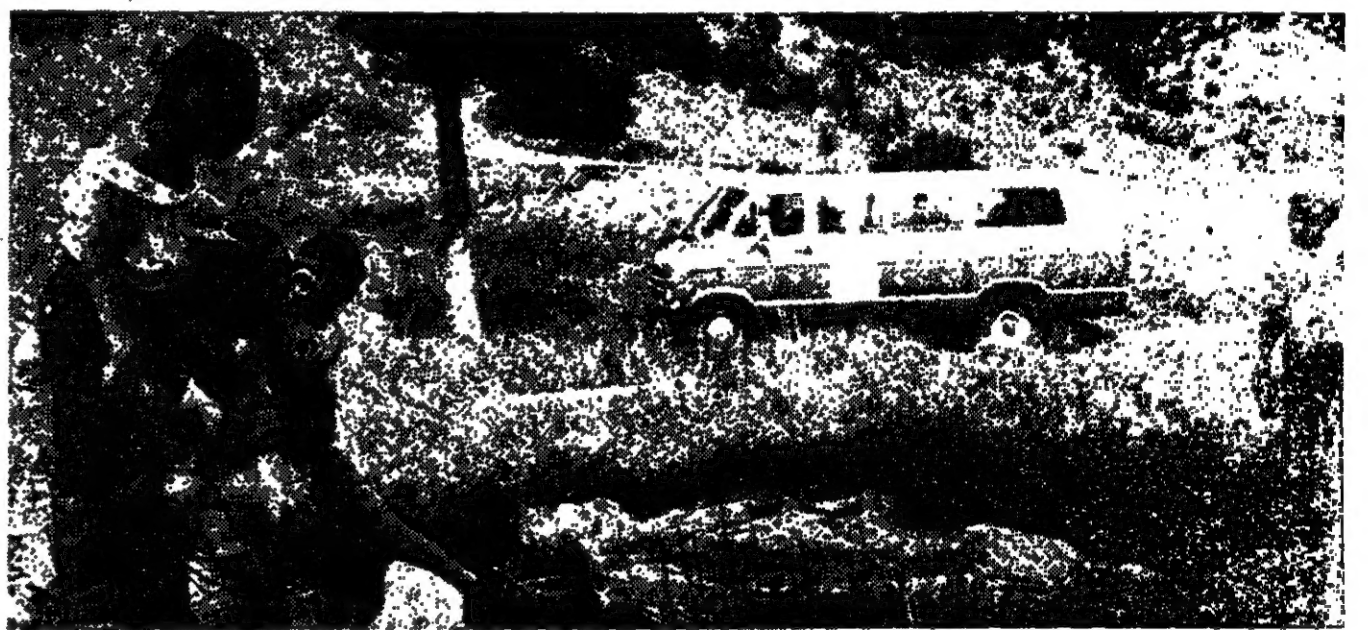
Cook in the top of a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 25 to 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown. Serve hot.

The Times Cook, Shona Crawford Poole, will be back on October 3.

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Four million youngsters in the US go to summer camp every year, but for many it's just another refuge from a broken home



The weather's warm, the theme is fun, the noise is deafening - it's summer camp time

Americans are just camp crazy

As I write I am sitting on the third floor of a large wooden lodge 8,500ft up in the Rocky Mountains, where the only sounds ought to be the whirring of humming birds and crickets punctuated by the tap-tapping of blackbirds and the playful cries of chipmunks.

In fact, I can hear no sounds of nature at all. Three stereo tape recorders are blasting out different stages of the complete works of Michael Jackson, someone is thumping on heavy chords on a piano on a floor below, and an aerobics workout is in progress around me. Outside the air is filled with the shrieks and cries of 200 children.

And this, as I have found after much careful investigation, is the quietest place in the camp.

Summer camps are as distinctive a feature of the American way of life as baseball matches and high school graduation. These have never really been exported.

Although an increasing number of temporary bus stops seem to be appearing every summer around the English Home Counties indicating pickup points for day camps, I suspect that like our hamburgers they are pallid and flavourless imitations lacking the full-blooded heartiness, the atmosphere, and indeed, the genuine American noise of the originals.

If there is a British institution that comes near to fulfilling some of the functions and representing some of the values of the American summer camp, it is the public school.

Just as some British parents spend as much as £6,000 a year to part with their children during term time, so a much larger number of American parents pay proportionately just as much to get their offspring out of the way during the long summer holidays by packing them off to camp.

In both cases there is a strong belief in the educational benefits and character-building properties of the communal life.

There are more than 8,000 summer camps in the United States. Every year around four million children pass through their gates between the middle of June and the end of August. Some come as day campers, others stay as residential campers for one or more weeks.

A significant proportion go off to camp for the full 10 or 11 weeks of the summer holiday, at a cost of around £2,000 each to their parents. Local social services departments provide a number of "assisted places" for poorer children in need of a holiday.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that one of the major reasons for the extent of summer camps in the United

States is the country's high divorce rate, which is currently about one in two. Camp provides a neutral and reasonably stable place for divorced parents to park their children during the holidays.

The camp where I have been working is certainly used for the purpose. Significantly, its application form is specifically geared to the needs of divorced and separated parents. They are asked which parent has custody of the child, which one the child lives with, and, not least important, which parents will be paying the camp bill.

The US Internal Revenue Service provides another major boost to the camp movement by allowing working parents to set £2,000 of every child's camp expenses against tax.

It is sadly clear from the disturbed behaviour and the craving for love and affection of many of the children at the camp that they come from unhappy homes and have been sent away to what is seen as a more stable environment.

This aspect of the camp's function puts a severe strain on counsellors, most of whom are themselves just college students, who live 24 hours a day with a group of a dozen or more children to whom they are expected to act as surrogate parents, advisers, exemplars, friends and leaders.

'The level of apparent sophistication has taken some getting used to'

Many of the values which the camps try to foster come straight out of the British public school tradition. Religion and patriotism both loom large. The camp day begins with the solemn raising of the Stars and Stripes and the state flag (just about the only time when something approaching silence reigns), and the singing of "God Bless America" or "My Country 'Tis of Thee".

Many camps are run by church groups or have specific denominational affiliations. The one where I have been working is family-run and opens its doors to all faiths, but even here every meal is prefaced with grace and everyone is expected to attend an outdoor inspirational service on Sunday morning, held on the aptly-named Vesper Hill.

There is also much emphasis on the Arnoldian virtues of character training, leadership, community life and the doctrine of *mens sana in corpore sano*. Alcohol, smoking and drugs are banned from camp, as is "unclean" talk about sex and the use of dirty words.

The food is plentiful and healthy. If it hadn't been for the

acute water shortage, I have a feeling that we might even have been enjoined to take a cold shower before breakfast.

There is also a strong emphasis on maintaining old traditions. One of the most popular activities at our camps is Indian lore, where the children are taught Indian crafts and cooking in large tepees. One of our most successful all-day events was a Gold Rush Day, which recreated the atmosphere of the pioneer era in the West.

Evenings are filled with camp fires, talent shows and energetic games like Capture the Flag, designed to tire out the children before bedtime. On the whole, competitive games are shunned in place of so-called new games which offer more scope for cooperation and fewer for scoring points off opponents.

When I took on my unpaid job as an activities instructor (nature and singing), I was sent a large package of reading material which included an essay on "The Positive Approach". It urged that instead of using authoritarian expressions with the children like "Clean up your room, or else", or "Don't you ever do that again", camp staff should rather say: "It would be a good idea to tidy your room" or "Please keep from doing that."

I must admit that after just a few days at camp I began to feel that perhaps it wouldn't be such a bad thing if American children heard the forbidden word "don't" just a little more often.

Certainly the kids at camp weren't at all inhibited about using it to the staff. Within half an hour of arriving, weary and jet-lagged, I was given a severe dressing-down by a seven-year-old for walking on the grass and failing to keep to the path.

The general level of precocity and apparent sophistication of the children has taken some getting used to. I was rather stunned when at one of the regular Friday evening barn dances I asked a six-year-old girl to dance and she replied: "No offence, Ian, but you're just not my kind of guy."

Yet it has been reassuring to find that nearly all the kids, including the young madam who spurned my attentions on the dance floor, have not been above enjoying the game of I Spy and singing their way through American folk songs and The Sound of Music.

The most popular number by far with my singing classes at the camp has been Doh Ray Me, followed by Skip to My Lou and a catchy song which I didn't know at all before I came out here about the sinking of the Titanic. Puff the Magic Dragon and the Beatles' Yellow Submarine have also gone well. I might

add for the benefit of those thinking of volunteering their talents in this direction in the future.

For those who positively revel in noise and organized fun and games, working in a summer camp can be an interesting and inexpensive method of seeing American life in a way you never could as a tourist.

If, like me, you are restricted in time and can't or don't want to spend all summer there, then the best thing is to write direct to a camp. Many are listed in the various directories of summer jobs abroad published

annually for students. That way, you won't get any pay or travel expenses, but you will get free board and lodging.

If you are free for the whole summer (mid-June to late August), apply to Camp America, 37 Queen's Gate, London SW7. If you are accepted, you will be placed with a camp that will pay your travelling expenses and some pocket money.

On balance, I think, I have enjoyed the experience, but if I do it again, I'm bringing some earplugs.

Ian Bradley

I POVERTY

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THE TIMES DIARY

Odds behaviour

Even before David Steel's astonishing disclosure yesterday that he may step down as Liberal leader, the Young Liberals had already issued odds on his succession. In their magazine, *Liberalism*, now being distributed in Bournemouth, these are listed as Alan Beith, even favourite, 3-1 Paddy Ashdown, 5-1 Michael Meadowcroft, 10-1 David Penhaligon - and at 100-1, Clement Freud and Cyril Smith. In an article which must have been a great source of embarrassment to the leader, the Young Liberals disclosed that Liberal MPs have held secret meetings to discuss the "leadership problem", and that potential successors are attending "all manner" of meetings as a prelude to their own leadership bids.

Bitov cheek

David Steel detects a remarkable change of heart in Russia's welcome back to defector Oleg Bitov. He was at the British Embassy in Moscow when news of Bitov's escape to the West was announced. At that time, Soviet officials assured him that Bitov "was a bit of a nutter" and that Britain was welcome to him. "We can give you plenty more of them if you want", said one. On behalf of Britain Steel declined, suggesting they set up an exchange.

Red letter day

Frederick Forsyth has his own ideas about Bitov. In London to launch his novel, *The Fourth Protocol*, Forsyth tells me of a long, expensive and - on Bitov's part - liquid lunch a few months ago at which Bitov showed his determination to write Chernomir a provocative "open letter" over the treatment of his family. Forsyth compares Bitov's departure with the poison-umbrella death of Georgi Markov in 1978. As journalists, both Markov and Bitov may have had stories to tell of the private lives of Soviet apparatchiks. Clearly fascinated, Forsyth believes there could be a novel in the affair, adding generously: "Tell you what, I'll send you the synopsis and you do the work."

● Compassion in World Farming has chosen October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, to launch a new campaign against cruelty to animals. By somewhat tasteless coincidence a well-known meat company has chosen the same day to make its award to the Master Butcher of the Year.

Rotten joke

Roy Jenkins is the most misunderstood man in British politics - in his own Glaswegian constituency, Hillhead, that is. Over lunch yesterday the jovial Roy (who endearingly asked if he could have an expensive starter, oysters, and a cheap main course, spaghetti) related the embarrassing problems of comprehending the local lingo. When holding an "advice bureau", a local implored him "to keep out of the rotten pork." Assuming it was some diseased meat, Jenkins willingly agreed. His enthusiasm earned him more than the odd vote: what the Glaswegian had actually said was, "can you keep out the rotten Pope".

One in the eye

The blanks fired from Milo O'Shea's gun in the West End production of *Corpus* have been landing in all sorts of embarrassing places. But the other night a doctor had to be summoned when the blank shot an American tourist in the eye. As fears of million-dollar lawsuits ran through the cast's mind, the victim's partner announced to all: "Don't worry. He's never had such fun since the Second World War." Now I am told O'Shea is considering changing his Christian name to Rick.

Cabinet dry

Freelancers won't be getting drunk from David Steel's drinks cabinet. I am told the Liberal leader has instructed the Ladbroke Savoy in Bournemouth, where he is staying during the conference, that his personal hospitality bill should not exceed £200. Thereafter, a visit to his rooms will be strictly BYOE.

Finger of fate

By their sticky fingers were they undone. Scotland Yard's retired fingerprints chief, Gerald Lambourne, catalogues in his book *The Fingerprint Story*, to be published later this month just where the Great Train Robbers' prints were found in their Aylesbury farmhouse hideaway. Ronald Wilson (30 years), on a packet of salt; Ronald Edwards (15 years), an envelope; Robert Welch (30 years), a Friary Draught Bitter pipkin; James White (18 years), a copy of the *Oxford Mail*; Bruce Reynolds (25 years) and Ronald Biggs (30 years), a bottle of Heinz tomato ketchup... and a game of Monopoly.

Return match

Ken Livingstone yesterday arrived to address his inevitable GLC fringe meeting in Bournemouth. Tomorrow, however, he can expect a return visit. Some 50 Liberals plan to board a coach at midnight tonight bound for the Paddington constituency where Red Ken contests his GLC by-election. There they will deliver "Good morning - vote Liberal" leaflets to every house in the ward before heading back to Bournemouth in time for Thursday's debates. What one might call "a dawn raid".

Miners: now for the human touch

by Francis Pym

There is a myth about the miners' strike, usually propagated by the Labour Party, that a ready compromise lurks somewhere in the wings. It is hinted that only the Government's intransigence prevents a solution, and that other more flexible people - even more flexible Conservatives - would end the strike in no time.

This is nonsense. However it is dressed up, the final outcome will be a defeat for one side or the other. For the sake of us all, let us hope it is a defeat for Arthur Scargill.

The miners' strike belongs to the NUM president. He wanted it, he has engineered it and - even though he may not be winning - he still controls it. He has no alternative, constructive plan of his own for the coal industry. He wants more coal to be mined and more miners to be employed - don't we all? - but has no apparent idea how this objective is to be achieved economically.

He has no intention of compromise. He talks airily of being "constantly prepared to negotiate", but what he means is that he is constantly prepared to reiterate his unchanging demands. In view of this, how can anyone believe that any compromise is available to the National Coal Board other than a capitulation? And, in this case, capitulation by the coal board would have the most horrifying and far-reaching consequences.

I believe that the great majority of the nation - possibly even a majority of miners, if one could only find out - understand the issues involved in the dispute and would be resolutely opposed to a sell-out by the

Government or the coal board. Fortunately it will not happen. It is perfectly possible both to see the need to resist Arthur Scargill and to be deeply concerned about the level of violence in the dispute, the long-term effect on mining communities and the unanswered question as to where new jobs will come from to replace those lost in the mines and in other traditional industries.

These mixed feelings cannot be altogether reconciled. Nor is it possible for the Government to do much to alleviate the depths of bitterness and division between miners. Antagonism is unavailing, and it stems directly from the way Arthur Scargill has chosen to conduct this dispute. But there is still an urgent need for the Government to do all it can to promote harmony and understanding in the nation, and to minimize the conflict. To this end it would help if the Government talked aloud more fully and thoughtfully than it has.

It is right and necessary to condemn intimidation by the bully-boys, but those are not the only words to say on the subject. The Government must also show it understands the feelings of thousands of non-violent striking miners, who are justifiably afraid of what their future holds. The harsh words should be reserved for those who lead the strikers and for those who have perpetuated or condoned violence and lawlessness.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet should seek to mobilize public opinion.

There is scope for stronger pressure to be applied against Arthur Scargill in this way. During the Falklands crisis, a parliamentary debate every week played a crucial part in uniting the nation. The coal strike has hardly been debated at all. Why not? It is and always has been a national crisis, and as such should be debated constantly in Parliament. And a periodic address from the Prime Minister to the nation, setting out the perspective, the dangers and the way ahead would make an important contribution to the nation's morale.

Along with this, both the Government and the coal board should devote more attention to new job opportunities for those leaving the coal industry. Most people accept the statistical argument about uneconomic pits: less easily do they accept the prospect of a lifetime without a job. In fact, the coal board has taken significant steps towards helping with retraining and with attracting new industry to mining areas. But more emphasis needs to be placed on this work - and more emphasis generally on the human side of the problem, and not just the economic side.

I believe that these things would help deepen public understanding of the dispute and its implications for the future, and would hasten its settlement. But neither they, nor anything else, can change the fundamental truths about the strike. Until Arthur Scargill can be persuaded to bend, there can be no solution.

The author is Conservative MP for Cambridge.

An end may be in sight to the war that is four years old this week, writes Henry Stanhope

The gulf narrows - slowly

Peacemakers who have been hovering despairingly over the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq are hoping that a new approach may win some ground at the UN General Assembly, which opens this week. They are searching for an alternative to the four-year-old war which, while stopping well short of a permanent settlement of this ancient quarrel, might lead to a ceasefire. The difficulty so far has been that the Iranians have refused to accept mediation or anything less than a humiliating surrender by the Iraqis and their Baathist leader, President Saddam Hussein. Now for the first time there are signs, so far only flickering lights in the gloom, that Tehran might begin to see reason.

Officially Iran's peace conditions remain the same - the return by Iraqi troops of any remaining "occupied territory", financial reparation for Iraq's "war crimes", acceptance of the Baghdad government's "war guilt", and the overthrow of Saddam himself. For Tehran to drop any of these might still be seen as a loss of face - one reason why it would be difficult to envisage formal peace talks and a negotiated final treaty. But visitors to Iran have reported signs of a war weariness which suggests that a no-war/no-peace compromise might not be too much to work for.

Last June Iran as well as Iraq responded positively to an appeal by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to refrain from attacking civilian targets. Both countries even agreed to accept teams of UN observers who could monitor compliance with the agreement. Each has accused the other since then of violations, but neither has felt sufficiently confident to call for the UN team to visit the scene.

The hope now is that both sides might be persuaded to accept other similar constraints upon their fighting. The next step might be an agreement to leave alone shipping in the Gulf.

Given the spate of attacks recently, this might seem like wishful thinking. But Iranian air raids have been retaliatory, and more greatly limited than many thought likely - especially since one of their Phantom bombers was shot down by a Saudi Arabian fighter.

The Iraqis, moreover, have partially achieved their objectives by alarming international community and reminding them of the need to help end the conflict. Iraq, after all, would probably settle for a return to the 1975 frontiers, so great is its desire to stop the fighting.

Other constraints upon the types of weapons used and the areas covered by the war, could gradually lead to a de facto rather than a de



A hospital on the Iranian frontline in 1980: the casualties have been enormous

jure peace which would then allow diplomats to get down to the business of converting this into a lasting treaty.

What makes observers think that Iran would contemplate this process? One reason is the failure of the Iraqis so far to begin their long-awaited land offensive in the south. This is thought to have been because army commanders have decided that they would stand little chance of achieving their objective - a breakthrough to Iran's second city and main port of Basra - and would in the process only weaken their ranks through heavy casualties.

Not long ago the military professionals would have been overruled by mullahs keen to launch a wave after wave of revolutionary guards at the infidels. Now it would seem that the Tehran government is listening to reason.

If this is so, then it must be clear to them that they have now lost their chance to take the offensive. The ideal time would have been immediately after the smaller spring offensive, when the Iraqis were still regrouping. Had they assembled a

larger reserve army in the rear they might just have won a victory.

As it is, the Iraqis have had time to re-equip - to an extent which has made them look by far the stronger force, according to a recent Congressional report. They have also strengthened their defences, building large fortifications to the east of Basra which have evidently impressed the Iranian field commanders. Most important, however, is the fact that their morale has been steadily rising after the casualties they inflicted during the Iranian spring offensive.

The Gulf War has never been short of mediators. The Gulf Cooperation Council, comprising the other Gulf powers, is now in continual contact with Tehran - another sign of more encouraging Iranian attitude. Egypt - working through the non-aligned movement

and Algeria and the Islamic Conference have also tried and so far failed to stop the fighting. Britain is among those countries which believe that the best chance of success lies with Pérez de Cuellar and his special Gulf representative Olof Palme. Not so long ago Iran would have dismissed

the UN as a sham. Now there are indications that it might be prepared to step forward from its position of diplomatic isolation.

Looking further ahead, the Iranian demand for the return of Iraqi "occupied territory" can be easily met, and some agreement over reparations is not too hard to imagine. Its insistence upon the recognition of Iraqi "war guilt" might be dealt with by appointing a UN commission to investigate the origins of the conflict. Ayatollah Khomeini's insistence upon the removal of his arch enemy Saddam Hussein looks in theory more difficult. But not even the mullahs can believe in their chances of setting up an Islamic republic in Iraq, where the large Shi'ite population has remained loyal to its political leader.

The General Assembly starts in New York only a few days before the fourth anniversary of the war, which the pundits expected to be over in four weeks. This year it will be not only a testing ground for East-West relations, but an opportunity to explore just how far Iran will go to make this anniversary the last.

but the financial measures forced on the government to replace the intended savings in bread subsidies.

Food prices have been modestly raised, but to balance the books the government has introduced a number of new taxes, raised prices on many goods ranging from petrol to many imported items, and has cut back or deferred development projects. With inflation rising again many observers predict a struggle in the next few months between the government and the powerful trade unions over wage demands.

The government appears well aware of the widespread disillusionment and last month's decision to release 17 jailed Muslim fundamentalists, the leadership of the Mouvement de la Tendance Islamique (MTI), is widely seen as a move to reach an accommodation with a political force that has considerable support among the young.

On top of its domestic problems Tunisia has now to contend with the pact between Libya and Morocco. Tunisia's foreign policy has always been to try to keep on good terms with the other countries of the Maghreb, but the new pact has emphasized the division of the region into two blocs: Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia are signatories of a treaty of friendship and co-operation, to which the new "union" is widely seen as a rival grouping.

Rioting's over, but the doubts remain

Godfrey Morrison reports on the long-term problems facing Tunisia's future leaders

have done little to restore it. In private many Tunisians and diplomats now question whether the Bourguiba regime will be able to survive without Bourguiba.

This worry may well be alarmist. The country's current political malaise is due, in part at least, to the sharp contrast between the riots and the almost unbroken political calm and economic growth since independence in 1956.

Officially the government claims that a historical line has been drawn under the January events by a recent trial in which the then interior minister, Driss Guiga, was sentenced to 10 years in his absence for treason but the trial excited almost no public interest, and the government's theory that the former minister had deliberately tried to use the riots to get M'Zali's job looked extremely thin.

Most Tunisians appear to believe that although Guiga and some of his police subordinates may have shown shortcomings in dealing with the riots, finally brought under control by the army, the reality is that he was used as a scapegoat in the endless jockeying for power by the top members of the leadership.

As one senior member of the political establishment put it to me:

"If you look around this country and see what we have achieved since independence I think you will admit that we have done well. But if we have a major fault it is that many of us in the political elite waste a lot of time in squabbling and petty jealousies."

A consequence is that the ruling Parti Socialiste Destourien (PSD) is suffering from that sclerosis which afflicts parties long in power: they remain a bureaucratic mechanism through which the ambitious can seek power and influence but lose their popular appeal.

The current malaise is one of the Arab world's most pro-western countries is seen particularly among the young - half the seven million population is under 20 - and it was the young who took to the streets in January. More than 60,000 people enter the job market every year and even in boom times the economy cannot provide that many new jobs. These are not boom times and the demographic safety-valve once provided by Tunisians going to work in Europe has been progressively shut off.

Moreover, the country is only now counting the real economic cost of the riots: not the repair of the gutted buildings and burnt out cars,

Robin Cook

A voting lesson for the Liberals

There is a government in Israel at last. For six weeks since the election Simon Peres has laboured and on the seventh week he has created a coalition.

The reason for the intervening state of anarchy is the punctilious system of proportional representation practised by Israel, which in July left the balance of power in the hands of a baker's dozen of minor parties, none of whom received more than 4 per cent of the popular vote but nearly half of whom had to be corralled into a coalition government before anybody had a majority. It is an object lesson in the disproportionate power which PR confers on minor parties, made all the more sharp in this case since the minor parties in question are a pot-pourri of religious fanatics and political extremists.

Tell it not in Bournemouth, which this week is honoured with the Liberal Party Conference, on whom PR in Britain would confer the same power to determine which major party should be placed in office and with it the parallel power to turn them out of office, without the inconvenient requirement of an election, by switching allegiance.

Such an arrangement has obvious attractions for the Liberals but is open to the partisan objection that the remaining four-fifths of the electorate would be denied the power to vote them out of office, as PR would guarantee Liberals a permanent presence in government whoever was in power.

There are also non-partisan objections to PR. The variety of PR systems are as plentiful as the supply of constitutional jurists, but ultimately they can all be classified under one of two species.

First there are those versions which depend on party lists from which candidates are returned in direct proportion to the votes cast for their party. The flaw in this arrangement is the alarming degree to which it leaves control in the hands of party headquarters. The power of the present prime minister is already sufficiently advanced without the additional right to sit down with Mr Gummer and hand-pick her next crop of backbenchers.

Nor does this control expire when the polls close, as it is a universal feature of this system that vacancies are filled by the next in line. It was a fortnight after the Euro elections before one governing party on the Continent reached a final view on whom it wanted elected, and then instructed those whom it did not want, to stand down in their favour. In the last European Parliament the Gaullists systematically stood down in annual rotation so that everybody on the list got a chance to be an MEP, including those rejected by the electorate.

The blemished character of the

list method has obliged the Alliance to favour the second family of PR systems based on mega-constituencies in which a multiplicity of candidates are returned by preferential voting. The irreducible problem of this arrangement is that in order to provide scope for proportionality it is necessary for the constituencies to be vast - the whole of Leeds or Suffolk, to take a couple at random from the Alliance proposals. Thus this form of PR would extinguish just as effectively that intimate link between an MP and the tightly defined constituency which is the unique feature of the British electoral system.

It is not just that the scale of such a mega-constituency would make it impossible to service the electorate in the manner that diligent Members at present court their own constituencies. In an electorate of half a million, influence of the individual resident or community association is reduced to vanishing point, and the electoral incentives to keep them would vanish also.

Admittedly MPs would find it wondrously liberating to be relieved of the drudgery of local advice surgeries and the round of voluntary organizations, but the quality of their deliberations may not be enhanced by the loss of immediate contact with the real problems that perplex their electors.

It is true that most MPs were elected on a minority share of the vote in their own constituency. Indeed there are 60 current MPs who were returned with a share of the vote below 40 per cent, and to save anyone the trouble of checking the reference, let me confess to being one of them. If this is perceived to be unacceptable, there is a way of repairing it which does not involve smashing up the constituencies.

It would be perfectly possible without altering the present electoral map to introduce preferential voting on the Australian model, in which candidates at the bottom are eliminated and the second preference of their voters distributed among the remaining candidates until one of them had secured half the votes cast. This solution would preserve the existing constituencies and ensure that every representative had the support of a majority of his or her electorate.

The neatness of this solution is no doubt marred for the Liberals at Bournemouth by the awkward fact that it would probably result in the election of fewer Liberals than a system based on pure proportionality. They must decide for themselves whether they are really prepared to sacrifice the traditional relationship between MP and constituent to their own partisan advantage.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Digby Anderson

Undeserving sick who bleed us dry

No new thinking on the National Health Service can be expected at either the Labour or the Conservative Party conferences, perhaps no thinking of any kind. For Labour the NHS is a benevolent deity to be offered uncritical, traditional worship; for the Conservatives, an idol before which they will stiffly bow, all parties are for it. Opinion polls show the public firmly behind it. Only a handful of market economists oppose it.

But even these sceptics are under the NHS spell. They, no less than the devotees, subscribe to the myth which permits the NHS to survive unreformed - the assumption that it is a service. In fact NHS stands for Nationalized Hybrid Services and includes a range of activities and goods which have little in common and which the slightest thought would reveal as appropriately subject to different moral principles and sources of funding.

Some of the Hybrid Services are not health or medical services at all, if those terms are used in a precise sense. Furthermore, many goods sold outside the NHS by the market, have far more impact on mortality rates than the "health service" itself, notably food and housing. It is understandable that men should worship health, even nationalized health; but it is absurd that they should be spellbound by initials.

Abortion is the extreme example. Many of the thousand or so abortions carried out every week by Nationalized Hybrid Services have little to do with health; one prominent view considers them a death service. But one does not have to share that view to recognize that the vast majority of abortions, female sterilizations and contraceptive services are not health services, and indeed divert scarce hospital beds, professional time and allegedly salvaged funds from those who are genuinely ill.

Once the heterogeneity of Hybrid Services is recognized, one can start to think about each service and its funding individually. The NHS can, in a literal sense, be dismantled. The question is no longer to defend or to abolish the whole, but which services to fund by the state and which by charges.

The much-vaunted public support for the service will no doubt continue for state funding of treatment for long-term chronic and expensive, unforeseen, acute conditions, typified by senile dementia and road accidents. It is by exploiting these two great fears as characteristic of the whole of the NHS that its devotees have manipu-

lated opinion into apparent popular support for the whole.

Response to more precise questions might be very different: it is desirable that the clean-living poor, earning as little as £45 a week, should be punitively taxed so that the promiscuous rich can enjoy free abortions costing perhaps £500 each? Is it unreasonable to ask those with adequate means to pay the cost of their food and laundry in hospital, as they would at home, so that lives could be saved through the purchase of more kidney machines?

These hotel charges would be about £70 per average visit and could be insured against privately for a modest premium. They could have an annual ceiling of, say, £100. Such charges are already made in Socialist France, the *forfait hospitalier*.

But there is another reason why certain conditions, including that often "treated" by abortion, might not popularly be felt to merit public subsidy: they are self-inflicted. Popular wisdom, much to the irritation of progressive thinkers, is obstinately attached to the distinction between the deserving and undeserving needy, and has scant sympathy for those who court poverty or disease in the search for pleasure and then demand aid from others. Should "resources" be withheld from children's wards so that adults convicted of dangerous driving can have 100 per cent free treatment after their accident? Or should the adults pay a contribution to the cost, again insurable?

Of course it may be that, given the chance to answer these precise questions, the public might ask for more activities to be brought within the NHS and taxes substantially raised. We do not know. Questions spelling out the different items provided by Nationalized Hybrid Services, their cost, those who benefit, those who pay and the services forgone to pay for others, are rarely asked.

Even basic costings in the NHS are notoriously unreliable. Indeed it appears those in charge do not know the facts. Asked in the Commons for the total cost of NHS abortions, Kenneth Clarke bluntly replied: "This information is not available centrally."

Government and Opposition clearly prefer dancing around the NHS totem to thinking about health. Indeed the ritual phrase "the NHS is safe with us", means "safe from rational evaluation".

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE SCRAPHEAP OF REVENGE

Peace between east and west today is achieved by what President Reagan has described as "the threat of revenge". The nuclear doctrine which is appropriately called MAD - mutually assured destruction - is based on the theory that, since neither side has an effective defence against missile attack, each would be deterred from launching an attack by the threat of retaliation from the other. In March 1983 President Reagan said: "I have been more and more deeply convinced that the human spirit must be capable of rising above dealing with other nations and human beings by threatening their existence". He called for a programme of research to explore the possibilities of developing systems to intercept and destroy nuclear missiles so as to render them impotent and obsolete.

One would have expected such a principled declaration to be welcomed, since it revealed a desire to break out of the depressing jargon of mutual retaliation. There was enough evidence that the doctrine of mutual retaliation was losing credibility with ordinary mortals. More important, there was overwhelming evidence that the Soviet Union had never embraced such a doctrine on principle, and had been working busily away at improving its defences against missile attack, through both its extensive civil defence programme and a persistent research effort into anti-ballistic systems.

However, instead of supporting Mr Reagan, the fraternity of strategic thinkers and military scientists mostly opposed the principle with tenacity, using a wide variety of arguments to belittle the idea, by sneering at its "Utopianism", questioning

its cost and feasibility, and suggesting that it would upset the Soviet Union.

The argument is far from over but at least the possibilities of Mr Reagan's research programme have been rescued from being stifled at birth, which might have been the result if they had prematurely become the subject of space disarmament talks which failed to take place in Vienna on Monday.

It is too soon yet to talk to the Soviet Union about this programme which is at an early and vulnerable stage of research funding, whereas the Soviet research programme has proceeded unchecked, and invulnerable to political criticism, since well before the 1972 US/Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which banned construction and placed certain technical limitations (which have been easily circumvented by the Soviet authorities) on development work.

It is hardly surprising that the Soviet authorities reacted negatively to the Reagan announcement in view of the fact that Soviet scientists have been working on the possibilities of beam weapons for nearly 20 years. Marshal Sokolovski discussed an "anti-rocket screening system" in a book in 1962 and by 1971 the Lebedev Institute in Moscow had succeeded in generating 300 billion watt pulses from a high energy laser, the kind of intensive power which, to judge from all other frontiers of Soviet scientific research, would be initially pursued and evaluated for military usage. In 1982 a Soviet battleship fitted with a high energy laser shot down a pilotless aircraft while American intelligence has evidence that Soviet lasers have also been used successfully to

bring down incoming missiles. There is a military thrust behind all Soviet developments in high temperature physics. According to a Rand Cooperation report, Soviet researches have managed to invalidate the theoretical limits on the control of high temperature set out by Western scientists.

At this stage, the possibilities of beam technology can only be explored; but they should be. The detailed objections to the idea in practice reveal only a reluctance to contemplate the possibility that the foundations of contemporary nuclear theory are fallible and obsolescent.

Mr Reagan's critics argue that the strategic defence initiative will be too expensive, or that it would at best only provide a partial defence, or that it would destabilize the Soviet relationship (who can claim that it is stable anyway?) or that it would be unfair to the European allies who might not be able to afford such cover, or that it would heighten the risk of conventional war and impose an extra requirement to improve non-nuclear forces, or that there are more cost effective things to defend than people and cities.

Many of these arguments are contradictory and should anyway be discounted until the research programme has managed to provide more pointers to the likely potential of beam weapons. They seem likely to introduce a new dimension of technology which is bound to affect the contemporary equations between offensive and defensive systems. In principle, however, it must be right to prefer a defensive system, albeit an imperfect one, than to continue with the arid menace of mutual assured destruction.

DID HE JUMP OR WAS HE PULLED?

So now we know what happened to Oleg Bitov. Or do we? There are various explanations, but none provides all the answers. Nor indeed did Mr Bitov attempt to answer all the questions put to him at his Moscow press conference. His tired appearance, the fact that his family remained in the USSR during his absence, and the whole sordid history of Soviet media manipulation would suggest to many that his melodramatic tale of kidnapping and blackmail by British secret agents was nonsense from beginning to end. Nonetheless, he named names and supplied addresses and telephone numbers.

It is normal practice, however, for Western security services to interview Soviet defectors, provide them with a safe house to protect them from KGB retaliation, and leave them with a contact telephone number when it is judged possible for them to move around more freely. Once Mr Bitov had published in the British press his reasons for not returning to the USSR, he would appear to have done his worst and therefore be less at risk. But these articles gave the lie to *Literaturnaya gazeta*, the important Soviet weekly newspaper for which he had worked; when he disappeared during a visit to Italy last year it published the

very theory of kidnapping (et cetera) now strangely supported by Mr Bitov's present testimony. Visiting Moscow last January, the Liberal Party leader Mr David Steel was told by the editor, Alexander Chakovsky: "You've pinched one of my staff, but he is a fool and I might be able to let you have one or two more like him".

All those who met him during his sojourn in the West confirmed that Oleg Bitov came here willingly, but there is much disagreement about his motives. The various reasons he himself gave, from the shooting down of the Korean airliner to the lack of freedom, were plausible explanations, if not individually, then when taken in total. But there were uncharitable Russian emigrés from Moscow literary circles who said from the first that Mr Bitov was "well known as a KGB *stukach* (informant)" and had certainly come to the West to fulfil some task.

What could the Kremlin expect to gain from such an extraordinary exercise in disinformation? Here at least the answer is straightforward. There are several instances of professional secret agents from the USSR and the East European countries who have staged a defection to gather information. Some took jobs with the Western

radio station broadcasting to the Soviet block and then returned to slander the genuine emigré broadcasters in specially arranged press conferences. Of course such operations are an acknowledgement of the importance of Western broadcasting in a society based on disinformation.

If Mr Bitov returns to normal life with his wife and daughter in his former circle of friends, and if his work again appears regularly in *Literaturnaya gazeta*, then these suspicions will be confirmed. Soviet authorities, troubled by repeated defections, will cite the Bitov case and claim that "as is well known" British secret agents kidnapped innocent Soviet citizens. This fits well with recent warnings in the Soviet media of the need to shun all contacts with foreigners.

But if Oleg Bitov disappears into the camps or internal exile after a spurt of publicity, another theory will gain strength: that he was forcibly abducted by the KGB or blackmailed into returning by pressure on his family. The long silence before his public performance already lends some credence to this version. Moscow has certainly not won a propaganda victory, since it would be clear to all that no such incidents can arise in states where citizens are free to travel abroad with their families.

A MESSAGE, BUT NOT A MANDATE

Britain's electoral system lends itself awkwardly to deciding single issues. As an endorsement of the Greater London Council, or rather as a rejection of the government's proposals to "streamline" it out of existence, Mr Ken Livingstone's by-elections, tomorrow are clumsy. A stunt, the Prime Minister called them; so they are, and so is much of politics, local and national. But gamesmanship will not invalidate these contests as a signal of public unease at the restructuring of London's government. Conservative Central Office, to the chagrin of local activists eager to put up against the demon-king in Paddington, has been consistent and done its best to stir up apathy. For every vote cast, for or against the motley of candidates in the four constituencies, will actually authenticate the GLC politicians' pleas for longevity.

That the municipal government of the capital is imperfect is a commonplace of a century since Lord Salisbury undertook his Tory reforms in the 1880s. Mr Jenkin has convinced neither

on the practicality of devolving important conurbation-wide functions to the boroughs (he hesitates on town and country planning; the Home Office will rightly have no truck with dismantling the fire brigade; other services are disposed according to no easily discernible principles); nor on the propriety of dispensing with direct elections in local administration. The recent suggestion of a standing committee of London MPs has no impressive precedent (the Scottish Grand Committee is an organ of tiny numbers and midnight conclaves) and no chance of bipartisanship. A turn out tomorrow stage in Westminster, Hillingdon, Enfield and Lewisham, even in no larger numbers than municipal polls usually attract, ought to occasion misgivings within the Department of the Environment even at this late stage in the preparation of the substantive abolition legislation.

Yet these elections are potentially dangerous. The danger is that a vote registered in protest at the government's plan is seized on by Mr Livingstone and

his party as an endorsement of the current controllers of the GLC, as approval of the "local socialism" practised and preached at County Hall during the past three years, and in evidence in town halls elsewhere in the capital. This doctrine, however softened by Mr Livingstone's interviewing charms, is one of radical re-distribution of income through the local tax system; geographical favouritism; an unmandated extension of the scope of tax-financed activity; a refusal to confront the municipal trade unions and hence a failure to manage effectively; a substitution of the quiet administration desired both by rate-payers and service beneficiaries with loud and expensive "campaigning".

It would be a pity if voters who want to keep the GLC - or some reorganized form of London-wide government became unwitting accomplices of Mr Livingstone's projects for social transformation. The polling lists offer, perhaps with the Alliance candidates, alternative expressions.

Sour surplus

From Miss Susan Casely
Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the relevant bodies one of the many anomalies of the EEC milk quota system.

The island of Islay has a large dairy industry, but none of the milk leaves the island. All milk surplus to local requirements is used by the

Islay Creamery to make their distinctive and very popular butter and cheese.

The creamery cannot produce enough of these products to meet demand. However, because of the milk quota system, farmers are having to pour milk down the drain rather than sell it to a buyer with an expanding market. If the local creamery became uneconomic it

could close, and then the local farmers would have no outlet for their milk.

Would the Milk Marketing Board ship it to the mainland? I doubt it. The result would be a disaster for the economy of the island.

SUSAN CASELY,
4 Winton Grove,
Edinburgh.
September 9.

Need for airline competition

From Lord Kinroull

Sir, In the last few months there has been immense political activity about airline routes and civil aviation policy. I personally doubt whether anyone can add much to the arguments at this stage. The views of all the various parties seem clear.

I think, however, that at this time it is important to reflect upon what the debate is about. There seem to me to be two principle issues and it is upon these issues that the Government should concentrate when coming to their decision.

The first is over what kind of civil aviation industry we want. Do we want an industry in which effectively one company is, by virtue of its historical rights, in a dominating position and is therefore a dominating influence over air transport policy, or do we want an industry with a number of active and innovative participants? I submit that the latter is the only one of these options which is consistent with Government policy on industry and competition.

The second major consideration is the consumer. Government policy favours giving consumers the benefits of competition and more choice over services and prices. It is hard to see how they will be able to exercise that choice if the market is dominated by a single very influential airline.

I do not think it would be appropriate for me at this time to take the side of any one airline that is involved in the current debate but, through your columns, I would like to advise the Government most strongly to find a solution that favours an industry in which there are several strong competitors. I believe that is the solution that would most favour the consumers.

Yours faithfully,
KINROULL,
House of Lords,
September 13.

Sped away

From Mr Anthony Maynard

Sir, Your Diary (September 11) reports that the new public image British Airways is commissioning for itself may extend even to erasure of the Speedbird emblem, known with affection the world over since BOAC days.

May the possibility of this pathetic piece of change for the sake of change be given a wider airing, to drum up customer opposition, lest the gnomes at BA let it through on the next day.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MAYNARD,
193 John Aird Court,
St. Mary's Terrace, W2,
September 12.

Energy subsidies

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, Mrs Thatcher has reminded us that coal is heavily subsidized. She might also have reminded us that oil, coal's main competitor for the time being, is artificially priced and heavily taxed.

North Sea oil is sold, by decree of British governments of both parties, at "world" prices, as determined largely by Opec. The difference between production costs, which could be about half the fixed selling price, and the price paid by the consumer is taxed at something like 90 per cent.

This fiscal-cum-social protection of one domestic source of energy against another has merit in the long term but might be criticized if both activities were operated by private enterprise - not least by consumers. Any move to make coal even more expensive (by mining un-economic pits) calling for even greater subsidy would place an unreasonable burden on this generation for the far-from-certain benefit of the next.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond,
Surrey,
September 8.

Calling the tune

From Mr James Scott

Sir, The French Education Minister is quoted as saying that a society which does not trust its teachers has no future. *Qu'est-ce qu'il dit d'une société qui ne les paie pas?*

Yours sincerely
JAMES SCOTT, Secretary,
National Association
of Schoolmasters/Union
of Women Teachers, East Surrey,
29 Lady Margaret Road,
Crawley,
Sussex,
September 10.

Catholic presidency

From Mr Bart Harrington

Sir, Your Diarist's comments (September 11) on the Duke of Norfolk's retention of the presidency of the prestigious Catholic Union, one of the official consultative bodies of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, reveals the very difficult position in which he has placed the bishops.

The Duke's public rejection of the Catholic Church's authoritative teachings on artificial contraception, Anglican orders, and the central, unique role of the Pope in the infallibility of the Church, as confirmed by Vatican II, is well known. The loyal acceptance and propagation of these same doctrines by the bishops are absolutely unquestioned.

Hongkong under new management

From Mr David Herman

Sir, Bernard Levin (September 15), no doubt with the best humanitarian intentions, approaches the Hongkong problem with his heart rather than with his head. He completely ignores the position and sensibilities of the mainland Chinese. Any Chinese government, irrespective of its political hue, would reclaim its territory in 1997 with as few conditions as possible.

The fact that the Chinese Government is preparing a formula for transition at all is an acceptance of the reality that to strengthen her economy and to pursue her modernization programme it must show good will and give assurances that foreign investments will be safeguarded and give economic returns.

Hongkong is the linch pin in this device. It is there that the best assurance to the Hongkong Chinese lies. Bernard Levin ignores the fact that the leaders ruling China today were the victims of the same factions that made so many Chinese citizens flee to Hongkong. The joint ventures and the encouragement of direct foreign investments in mainland China (advertisements for which abound in the British financial press) make the present regime in China unique among communist countries.

There are no guarantees in history. It is only the practical that will survive. There will, no doubt, be an exodus from Hongkong during the next thirteen years. The size of this exodus will largely depend on favourable socio-political changes within mainland China itself. The present omens are good. The vast majority of the Hongkong population are faced with a great challenge and many opportunities, because mainland China desperately needs the administrative and managerial skills which abound in the colony.

The impending new status of Hongkong can lead to many new opportunities for British business and influence. This would be a practical way to help the Hongkong Chinese and so avoid a "terrible fate", which Bernard Levin dreads, in his very emotional but unrealistic outburst.

Fortunately it is not Bernard Levin but Sir Percy Cradock who advises HM Government. Yours sincerely,
DAVID HERMAN,
63 Mill Lane, NW6,
September 16.

From Mr Norman Barrynaine
Sir, The admirable second plea by Mr Bernard Levin on behalf of the people of Hongkong has come too late. An agreement, to be called "A

Winning wines?

From the Director of St George's Wines

Sir, If I may divert your attention for a moment from the miners' strike...

The Wine Development Board have just issued a tasting guide to dry and sweet white wines. Yet out of nearly 50 wines from all over the world rated in the guide there is no mention of English wine. On whatever criteria you choose it seems to me, as a producer of English wine, absolutely staggering that the Wine Development Board should have deliberately ignored the wine produced by over 200 different vineyards in this country.

The board say their guide is for leading white wines. But if by leading they mean quality, I am amazed they include Vint de Verdie and medium British sherry and not English wine. I bet more of your readers would consider English wine had more quality than British sherry, medium or not.

If, however, by leading they mean quantity again I am amazed. They include such exotics as Austrian Beerenausele - which, incidentally, they spell incorrectly - and Muscat de Beaumes de Venise. I bet you more English wine is sold in this country than these two wines

The tune in 'Noon'

From the Very Reverend Alfred Jowett

Sir, In the interests of the American style of scholarship and in order to set James Fenton's enquiring mind at rest (book review, September 13) I can identify at least part of the quotation from D. H. Lawrence's *Mr Noon*. The tunes (incorrectly given)

"The roses round the door
Make me love mother more
Come from a song to celebrate
The return of US soldiers after the First World War - in this case to Tennessee."

It contains such poetic gems as
At home in Tennessee
That's where I long to be
and goes round the family group as follows:
And at table next to Mabel
There's an extra chair

The bishops must therefore be in a dilemma. If they appear to do nothing to remove the Duke from his office, they are in danger of being judged as acting as if dissent from important teachings is of such little consequence as to make infidelity to the Magisterium irrelevant to the holding of high office in the Church in England and Wales.

If, on the other hand, they use their power and influence to ensure that he is removed from office, they will be accused of conducting a witch-hunt. A continuance of the present situation can only harm the Church, and reduce the credibility and effectiveness of the Catholic Union.

However, the Duke himself can resolve the bishops' dilemma. He can resign the presidency. Alternatively, he can withdraw, in as public a

Declaration", has been reached between China and Britain for Hongkong after June 30, 1997, and is to be initiated in Peking on September 25 or 26. It covers every aspect of Hongkong life.

Although the declaration falls far short of what the British negotiators aimed to secure when the talks began two years ago, it is a much more detailed document than China originally demanded.

The agreement will have the merit of removing the uncertainty about the future and it is hoped will restore confidence - the all-important element in Hongkong continuing to remain prosperous.

Mr Levin's proposal that Britain in the intervening 13 years mounts an international resettlement operation for any of the five million-odd Chinese who wished to avail themselves of it would, in my submission, constitute a breach of the proposed agreement.

The most important clause in the agreement states that Hongkong, after June 30, 1997, becomes an autonomous administrative zone for 50 years. In other words, it is to be a capitalistic area within a socialist state. The Chinese Constitution is to be amended to provide for this.

Mr Levin shares the fears of many others, that the Chinese Government in 1997 might repudiate the terms of the new agreement. That cannot be denied, but no government can commit a future government. All that can be said at the moment is that China has an unblemished record in keeping international treaties.

Hongkong under British rule has become a thriving financial and industrial area because of the skill and hard work of its Chinese population. In offering to make Hongkong an independent administrative zone Peking rightly expects to inherit that labour force in 1997. If Britain took part in an international operation which would significantly deplete it, it would be contrary to the spirit of the proposed agreement.

Although the agreement may fall short of what Britain and the people of Hongkong would have wished it is now incumbent on all parties to ensure that it works. This is a great responsibility. If it is seen to work, it will remove any temptation on the part of Peking in 1997 to change the rules. There are many who firmly believe that Hongkong has a great future.

Yours sincerely,
N. BARRYMAINE,
Quartier Le Luron,
83620 Bargemon, (Var),
France.
September 17.

combined, yet they are included and English wine is not.

Would any other wine-producing country in the world produce an international guide to wines and leave out the wines of their own country?

To me the Wine Development Board's guide is distinctly corked and flabby, even mouldy in parts. something, incidentally, English wine is not. I believe it should be withdrawn and replaced by something more balanced and refreshing with a touch of finesse - more like our own English wines, in fact.

Yours faithfully,
GAY BIDDLECOMBE, Director,
St George's Wines,
Waldron Vineyards,
Heathfield,
East Sussex,
September 1.

Weighty problem

From Mr S. F. Stenhouse

Sir, The real reason for the lateness of BR trains has now been revealed. As we pulled into Waterloo this morning, the guard announced: "This train is three minutes late due to heavy passengers."

Yours faithfully,
S. F. STENHOUSE,
5, Southville Road,
SW18,
September 14.

and
I see my sweetheart Flo
And friends I used to know
I regret that I do not remember the third and fourth lines of James Fenton's quotation. As they do not scan I fear that they must be rejected as inauthentic.

You may think, Sir, that your space is too valuable for this letter to be printed. But if the Australian Mrs Porter and her daughter rate a mention in *The Waste Land*, why not celebrate the GI's return to Tennessee in a second edition of Lawrence's novel. The note would fit in well with the others amusingly referred to by James Fenton.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED JOWETT,
37 Stone Dow,
Fulwood,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire,
September 13.

way as he made it, his rejection of the teachings concerned. It is inconceivable that he has not been informed where he is wrong and given the necessary guidance.

The Duke is, of course, entitled to his own private views which, it must be assumed, cannot be those of the Catholic Union as a body. He must, however, appreciate that the importance of the office he still holds, and the status the media accord him as "Britain's premier RC layman", require compatibility between his private views and his public role.

I am not a member of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. I write as a private individual
Yours faithfully,
BART HARRINGTON,
9 Hillcrest Road,
Great Crosby,
Liverpool,
September 13.

Challenging view of world history

From Professor G. R. Elton, FBA

Sir, World history, says Mr Austin Arnold (September 14) is emerging as an academic discipline in its own right. Leaving aside the possibility that what is emerging is a non-academic display of indiscipline, one still welcomes the fun to be got out of running about the steppes instead of the same old boring open fields.

But Mr Arnold also proves the truth of the notion that one of the historian's main tasks lies in exposing false assumptions. He takes it for "axiomatic that we are moving towards the global village". In such discussions, axiomatic tends to mean "unproven but convenient" and this axiom is demonstrably false.

Sixty years ago a world came to an end in which frontiers mattered little, passports were required for entry only into the Ottoman and Russian empires, and visas were unknown. A few large units covered the better part of the globe, providing easy contact and coexistence for very diverse peoples.

Of this world hardly anything survives today; perhaps only Russia and India continue as entities of the old kind in which various nations were ruled by one imperial power. The building of nation states, which Mr Arnold admits, allows the teaching of national history to serve a useful purpose, has been the obvious consequence of two world wars, though there have been differences in the process. After 1918 genuine nations aware of nationhood tried to build states; since 1945, in a great many instances, artificial states have been trying to build nations. Either way, the world is hardly moving towards the global village.

Nor can the axiom be saved by invoking Jungian mystics. Anyone studying world history (which in Professor McNeill's lecture turned out to mean studying Asiatic rather than European events) in the search for some "collective unconscious of the planet as a whole" faces a disappointment the more assured because neither the supposed end in view nor the supposed means for attaining it actually exists.

Mr Arnold is not, of course, alone in misreading recent history. On the other hand, since I do not hold that the future is firmly predictable from the past, I do not exclude the possibility of some sort of global unification in that future. The omens are not good, but omens have misled before. What does matter is that we should not set up haphazard axioms, constructed out of dreams and cotton wool, and then abuse history to prove them.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. ELTON,
Clare College,
Cambridge,
September 15.

The Pope and Marxism

From Mr Victor Gould

Sir, Mr Graham Greene (September 11) points to what we see as a difference in attitude towards Marxism between John XXIII and John Paul II.

There is indeed one very important difference between them where Marxism is concerned. John Paul II spent 30 years of his life in a country governed by a regime dedicated to Marxism. He knows from personal experience what life in such a society is really like.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR GOULD,
2 Chapel House,
Wilmore,
Stratford-on-Avon,
Warwickshire,
September 12.

A harvest tithe

From Mrs Tamzen Elwes

Sir, Mrs Jill Day (September 14) would like to return to the tithe principle for farmers. Although not a tithe in the sense of a tenth of their crop, many farmers all over the country are co-operating in a scheme of donation of one ton of wheat from this year's bountiful harvest.

The scheme is operated through the grain merchants, who pay the farmer for one ton and forward the proceeds for famine relief.

Just a thought in these "farmer-bashing" days from a small farmer's wife.

Yours sincerely,
TAMZEN ELWES,
Elder Farm,
Krimston,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk,
September 14.

Birth of a prince

From Mr Peter Corneille

Sir, As honorary secretary of a rather old theatrical club, I feel that it would be a compliment to William Shakespeare and our humble profession if our much-admired Prince of Wales and his enchanting Princess would care to encourage the populace to call their second son Prince Hal in memory of a play which has done a lot for the image of his family, and kept many of our profession from starvation over a number of years.

Your obedient servant,
PETER CORNEILLE,
Green Room Club,
9 Adam Street, WC2,
September 17.

From Mrs Oliver Nugent
Sir, I suppose that now it's "God for Harry, England - and St Mary's, Paddington?"

Yours sincerely,
MARY NUGENT,
19 Scots Lane,
Shortlands,
Kent.

THE ARTS

Concerts

Star-struck

SNO/Bamert
Glasgow

After the less than wonderful revelation of Cavalli's opera in Edinburgh last month, Orion is not the most tactful subject to be raising in Scotland just now. But John Casken has dared and triumphed with his bareheaded orchestral piece *Orion Over Farnie*, which the Scottish National Orchestra under Matthis Bamert gave for the first time on Monday evening. It was a performance of very welcome vigour, coming at the start of the tight-packed week of new experiences that Glasgow's sixth Musica Nova festival has in store.

The work itself is a symphonic poem about star-gazing over the wild Northumbrian coast and about the myth of the great hunter, but it is also a compacted symphony, with four movements, held in a single 20-minute span. Thus the figure of Orion himself is the excuse for an opening section of huge energy, continued in the third movement. The thrust is always onward and upward as ideas boil out of the strings into the tuned percussion, or as rising scales rip through the brass.

Malcolm Binns
Wigmore Hall

I am no xenophile, but have often found myself wondering why we are so ready to accept foreign pianists when we have plenty of native talent waiting to be tapped. Malcolm Binns has been before the public for 25 years and, on the strength of his playing at this recital, is a better pianist than many of the "great names" that the publicity machine in its wisdom has seen fit to promote.

It was an unusual idea to present a substantial batch of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*, and it says something for Mr Binns' skill that he saved the music from degenerating into drawing-room sentimentality. His tone may have been a little robust at times, but he conveyed the composer with more dignity than is customary. Mendelssohn the effusive charmer was quite banished.

The same composer's *F sharp*

By contrast, the even-numbered sections, effectively a slow movement and an adagio finale, are more sustained in tone and colour: the slow movement is a meditation on a cor anglais solo, and the finale has as its key passage a very beautiful elegy of increasing complication and poignancy in the strings.

What these sections share with their companions, is a strong sense of direction. Casken writes of his music as a voyage and he keeps the invention going right up to his closing starscape, weirdly completed by the groan of a cymbal resting on one of the timpani.

The concert also included works by two of the other composers being featured in this festival. Per Norgaard offered *Illumination*, a 10 minute overture of slow, steady growth towards quivering brilliance led by raised French horns, and from Elliot Carter there was one of his toughest nuts, the Piano Concerto, in which Ursula Oppens seemed perfectly at home in the mazy race of musical traffic. Scottish audiences will be glad of the opportunity to hear her again in this work next month.

Paul Griffiths

minor Fantasy, Op 28, is much weightier, and possibly his most successful large-scale piano work. It can sound disjointed, but on this occasion Malcolm Binns projected it as a whole, and it provided the best performance of the evening. The second half was devoted to Chopin, Mendelssohn's almost exact contemporary. Here the sound-world changed to convey more impressionistic moods.

It was a little unwise to

conclude with the B major

Nocturne, Op 62, No 1 and the

Barcarolle, as they share much

the same ambience. Neverthe-

less, the quality of poetic insight

was such that this reservation

was not too important. Scintil-

lating treble runs breathed like

slight over the instrument, and I

felt happy in the knowledge that

Chopin was a master-composer

and Malcolm Binns something

approaching a master-pianist.

James Methuen-

Campbell

Television

SOE (BBC1) is living up to its initial promise. Last night's edition, *Subversion*, dealt with the improbable wartime goings on in Denmark. Indeed, from the moment of the Germans' dawn invasion, the whole situation was improbable. Realizing the futility of resistance King Christian decreed compliance, with the result that until 1942 the country's government, courts and police ceased to exist. A sizeable proportion of the citizenry offered goods and services to their invaders, who gratefully dubbed the country the Whipped Cream of Europe.

Thanks to plentiful amounts of clandestine newsfilm, both the unreal calm of that period and the furious civil disorder which followed were vividly recalled. There was even a clip of the moment when, after the government had aligned itself against the allies, the King became the focus for student protest. We saw railway lines and a line-up of shipyard workers who had built the *Linz*, we saw the face of the man who blew it up, prior to its maiden voyage, with a limpet mine smuggled in his lunch-box.

We met some of the reckless

few who worked for SOE (the

Special Operations Executive) and did not die of gunshot wounds or malfunctioning parachutes. The top executive whose simultaneous responsibility it was to create a national sabotage network from scratch. The radio operator who was knocked out as he hit the ground, awoke to find a dog pressing round him which he pressed into service as an alibi, recovered slowly from amnesia, remembered the codeword, found his friends, survived when they were shot, was imprisoned by the Danish police, and released into the waiting arms of the Gestapo.

The cameras cavedropped on a communal meal in a Jutland house which had been a clearing house for guns and ammunition. On the table, carefully placed in shot, were photos of the relatives who had risked death for the movement and finally been unlucky. As one Danish agent put it: "The SOE bought for Denmark its ticket, its entry card into the free world". As did the 87 children who died in their school, accidentally killed when the RAF sent 18 Mosquito bombers to liberate - successfully - virtually the entire Danish SOE corps, immured in prison and awaiting slaughter.

Michael Church

Frank Sinatra
Royal Albert Hall

It was one of those rare occasions where the Sloanes rose shoulders with the Romfords; where toffs and large, broken-nosed gentlemen from the more colourful East End professions are brought together to share a common affection. No, not the Epsom Derby, although the ill-mannered jostling for bar space was reminiscent of that, but an evening with Frank Sinatra. Sinatra, Frankie, the voice, the Hoboken kid who couldn't go back, the man with the golden throat.

But first, Buddy Rich and his Orchestra, young tyros all save the master, now 67, but still giving the impression that he'd have been too hot for Led Zeppelin to handle. Rich seems to have invented every unsuitable drum rhythm in the book, from the crash and clatter of cacophonous swing to heavy metal. He spun a web between Tommy Dorsey and Duke Ellington, stopping off at *West Side Story*.

His band snarled and blared with the rising adrenalin of a Little Italy traffic jam. Great stuff. Add two years to Mr Rich's stage and you get the star of the night. Sinatra merely ambled on stage, no tears, no fuss, perhaps the most impressive thing he did all evening. I'd heard of Sinatra at the Sands but wasn't prepared for Sinatra at the sands of time.

The last time I saw him, in 1977, Sinatra was coasting on technique but he still had the aggression and will to turn the evening to his advantage. Here he is tired and not a little bored. The Rat Pack biographies, the marriages, the trials by press, let's pretend that these things took their toll. But does anyone



Frankie, the Voice: No tears, no fuss

really care any more about that celluloid fantasy? "I can't tell you how glad I am to be in this wonderful edifice," Sinatra gestured vaguely, practically every word scripted from a lectern which

refused to cooperate. When the autocue went on the blink half way through "The Lady is a Tramp" (no feminists in this audience) Frank just laughed. In the old days he would have fired the band, punched out a

Theatre

The great story-teller who makes the words sing

Old Story Time
Stratford East

Sitting tight in Jamaica and Trevor Rhone is rapidly becoming London's favourite West Indian playwright. The fact that he does not threaten our peace of mind, like some of his emigrant compatriots, may have something to do with this. But the main reason is that we have few enough writers of any kind with the gift for loving characterization and powers of story-telling. My only complaint is that every Rhone production turns the house into a mini-Jamaica, and it is hard to hear the show for the sound of people having a good time.

Old Story Time starts off as a

nostalgia trip with the sight of a village story-teller gathering a crowd and getting his tongue going with a bottle of rum. Once under way, the story-teller (Rudolph Walker) returns in the role of an up-to-the-minute principal character. That is typical of the piece. It offers itself as a naive comedy of entertainment, and without sacrificing believability it also deals very cannily with a range of issues that are far from simple.

Young Len (Carrington Walker), bullied into passing exams by his fire-breathing mother, quits the matchwood hut for the university and surfaces as a bank manager. All

would be well, but for the fact that he has disobeyed his mother's instructions and married a black girl.

The plot that unravels from this examination in a society that is quite sufficiently class-ridden without the interference of whites. You see Len switching between his computerized office and a voodoo woman (seeking help when his mother threatens to put a curse on the wife), and an action which follows through business deals in the shadow of school bullying.

This being a Rhone play, these issues are all articulated through a buoyantly funny plot, and language that really sings. I

do not claim to understand it word for word. But to hear someone say: "That's where the perpendicular meets the protruberance that imlays the combrution" is a good deal better than simply being told that an immovable force has met an immovable object.

The cast, from the paternal Mr Walker to Okon Jones's crooked real estate man, make the idiom and the action dance. But the crown of the author's production is Mona Hammond as the mother, excelling in volcanically comic reversals, acting with every inch of her body, and turning this wrong-headed imperious old dragon into folk heroine, recalling the old days of the Dublin Abbey.

Irving Wardle

desperately needs a really rich performance nearer the centre. What it gets is Philip Whitechurch's Scouse lingo, given to grins that crinkle the corners of his eyes in obvious insincerity, and constantly smirking after a line whose point he has failed to make.

But the many doors half-hidden in Mr Ling's stark tower-chamber set bring on the eavesdropping Rodrigo like lightning, and, thanks to the gauze traverses, the poor wretch's murder takes place at the feet of the front row instead of being hidden in the upstage. Once again this studio, proves to be a designer's paradise. Unfortunately, as this *Orkello* shows, it also puts underdeveloped performances in an unflattering spotlight.

Anthony Masters

Tribal drums and death in Venice

Othello
Lyric Studio

Something of a shock after recent *Othellos*, Michael Boyd's production makes a point of being firmly set in the Renaissance. In the first moments, swelling Montevideo accompanies Othello's wedding, an ominously private affair since the groom has no friends and the bride's are snubbing her.

Thereafter, Peter Ling's Titivolt costumes (*Othello*'s the finest of all) constantly evoke the sumptuous, complacent society that needs the Moor but will never fully accept him. And inevitably, to him, Venice becomes a place he never understands and, for all his candour and nobility,

subconsciously mistrusts. The play is littered with references to the wantonness of Venetian women, gradually eroding his confidence.

The upstage shrine reminds us of another spiritual adjustment Venice demands of him, as well as being a reference point for the Christian imagery of salvation and damnation with which *Othello* is saturated. For their joint yow of vengeance Iago kneels to the Virgin, but Othello to unseen gods of his own - and, rather unnecessarily, proclaims his return to the jungle by tearing off his doublet as tribal drums rise on the soundtrack.

Joseph Marcell (formerly of the RSC) is a slight, handsome *Othello* of great openness and charm, whose stylish, verse-speaking belies his claim to "rudeness of speech". No wonder he chose Desdemona: Stan Thomas has more integrity and delicacy than the other Venetians put together. The burly Cassio (Peter Wright) has little breeding and certainly no "beauty in his life"; and Nick Dunning, showing how gain with intelligent playing declines wretchedly from a distracted milkop into a broken (and broke) wreck.

The production, though,

Dance
Elegant feet and legsAshton Ballets
Big Top, Cambridge

The Royal Ballet will be holding an official celebration next month for the 80th birthday of Sir Frederick Ashton but, splendid as they may be, I do not think they will be happier or more appropriate than the programme of three Ashton works given by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in the Big Top in Cambridge on Monday.

Les Rendezvous and *Facade* are two of his earliest works, dating from the early thirties. But in these, as well as in *The Dream* made 30 years later, are clearly shown the qualities that mark his choreography and moulded his dancers.

Musicality, lyricism and easy, unforced virtuosity, elegant feet and legs, epaulement, and above all a sense of style are all requirements of the Ashton repertoire and were distinguishing signs of the English school as its best. While British ballet may have been largely the

creation of two remarkable women, it was Ashton who gave it its distinctive flavour.

Newly returned from holiday, the Sadler's Wells company danced with enthusiasm and joyous commitment despite the far from ideal surroundings of the Big Top. Although these ballets are almost constantly, they still carry a freshness and excitement which is as much a tribute to the dancers as to the choreography. Shirley Kennedy and Carl Myers danced with considerable charm in *Les Rendezvous* and partnering Marion Tait, Roland Price as Oberon in *The Dream* was uneven, but at his best, very impressive. But the outstanding performance in this tribute to the company's greatest choreographic genius came from its brightest choreographic hope - David Bintley as Bottom, beautifully judged, entirely personal and faithful to the style of Ashton's lovely ballet. A worthy successor to Alexander Grant.

Judith Cruickshank



Olivier Munoz and Sai Kan Chiang

More a spectacle than an allegory

Fu
Sadler's Wells

Chiang Ching, whose *Fu* was given its European premiere by the Northern Ballet at Sadler's Wells on Monday night, is I think the finest Chinese choreographer to stage work for a British company. Her biography in the programme tells us that she has tried to draw from both eastern and western dance styles in search of a more universal form of communication. Just how far *Fu* communicates to western audiences remains to be seen; I suspect it will be watched more as spectacle than as allegory.

You can, I think, see what she is driving at. A man in simple clothes (*ergo* poor and honest) is tempted by his baser self to go off in quest of power and success, symbolized by men in magnificently decorated robes. He ends up, of course, alone and disillusioned, having lost both his loving wife and the glamorous woman who fascinated him, and cut off from the world by a web he has helped spin.

John Percival

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A SPECIAL REPORT

Private industry and commerce are leading what recovery there is in the construction industry and companies are 'looking for something significant from the Government' as the Chartered Institute of Building celebrates its 150th anniversary

The builders



Recession has had a dramatic effect on the British construction industry. Put simply, there has been a shift from the public to the private sector, from new-build to repair and improvement and an increasing discrepancy between the market share in the North and North-East of the country and the South and particularly South-East. As the parts of the country furthest from London have tended to rely more on public-sector contracts in the past, so they have now suffered doubly.

Latest figures from the Department of the Environment show that private industry and commerce are leading what recovery there is. Industrial orders remain the strongest sector, with a 41 per cent lead over a year ago, and 35 per cent up for the manufacturing sector during the first six months of the year. In the public sector, defence contracts have pushed up the value of work from £168m in the first quarter to £236m in the second.

But even private housebuilding, which only last year many industry leaders saw as the only real area which was bucking the general trend, fell off dramatically in the early summer. Figures released last month show orders down 11 per cent on the first quarter and 9 per cent below a year ago.

Michael Millwood, president of the Building Employers Confederation, says: "Frankly, there has not been much sign of a recovery at all. The current level of building activity is 40 per cent below what it was 10 years ago, in real terms. If you take the upturn in private house-building and refurbishment, then it is still 25 per cent below".

The industry was, of course, at the peak of its postwar boom just over 10 years ago. It has

had to try to come to terms with successive governments using capital projects as an economic regulator, but familiarity with the problem over a number of years has not made it any more palatable. Mr Millwood adds: "We are looking for something significant from the Government". So far, at least, the Prime Minister has turned a deaf ear to industry pleas through its Group of Eight lobby of consultants, contractors and labour organizations.

In June the National Economic Development Office published its latest forecasts for 1984-1985-1986, prepared by the Joint Forecasting Committee of the Building and Development Councils. Though it predicts a rate of growth of 2.5 per cent by the end of the year, this is expected to fall again with the economy at large. No change is forecast for 1985 and a slight downturn is likely in 1986.

But industry gloom has not made it despondent - far from it. Peter Short, president of the Chartered Institute of Building, which represents 28,000 building managers, says it has responded by marketing itself better and through innovation. Those factors are going to be critical while contractors are expected to compete in the marketplace depleted by voluntary restraint in the public sector - and quite possibly further setbacks this autumn; and a much more demanding private sector client, especially those represented by the British Property Federation.

John Watts, managing director of Lovell Construction, recently launched a campaign to give his company a much higher profile. He says: "We have had a record number of opportunities to bid for work, but our success rate is now one in 15 rather than one in five."

"We have to be very selective. We have maintained turnover but the margins are

very tight. Our competitors are now becoming more realistic in their pricing, however; they were suicidal in some instances". Builders still head the number of bankruptcies every year, and there is a saying that 'the easiest thing in the world is to get a job'.

Lovell Construction has found new markets for itself, adding a series of hospitals for the private sector to its more usual workload of offices, hotels and shopping centres. Meanwhile the Saatchi advertising agency have been trying to bring a little bit of the advertising world's glamour and razzamatazz to the normally staid business of the building industry, at the builders' initiative.

Mr Millwood says: "We are making a concerted effort to influence the Government, MPs, industrialists and the man in the street about the need for more building. We believe that we can show people that expenditure on bricks and mortar is a good investment". He believes that it is possible to a large extent to spend our way out of the recession and eat up unemployment in the process.

The introduction of the confederation's long-awaited public guarantee scheme on October 3 will be a significant step for the industry, far-reaching in its scope. It will also help

The British construction industry

- Value for work: About £23,000m - is about 12 per cent of the gross domestic product.
- Share: private industrial and commercial 29 per cent, public works (non-housing) 31 per cent, housing 40 per cent.
- Employees: more than 1.5 million (about 2 million when associated manufacturing and distribution are included).

Construction is the largest single production-industry employer. It is just over half the size of the country's three biggest service industries (retailing, finance and public administration). Construction is three times the size of agriculture and mining.

Source: Focus on Construction, published by the Building Employers Confederation and the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

to overcome some of the public concerns about dealing with some builders, especially those outside the membership of the official organizations and those in the black economy.

Ironically, at the same time the confederation was receiving tacit approval of its guarantee from the Office of Fair Trading, the Government gave a huge boost to the black economy by introducing VAT at 15 per cent on alterations and improvements. When that percentage is translated into money, for example £750 on a £5,000 contract, that is enough to dissuade many people from building, or at least to hesitate. "And to hesitate in this industry is tantamount to saying goodbye," says Mr Millwood.

The net result of VAT has been to act as a brake on work, and to transfer a lot of work

from respectable firms to the fly-by-nighters. After the Budget builders obtained from the Prime Minister a categorical assurance that VAT would not be imposed on housebuilding or the rest of construction in any future Budget, but removal of the lower limit for registration would go some way to avoiding a continuing problem, the confederation believes. Another fiscal penalty, the removal of industrial allowances from next year, is likely to have a dampening effect on this market.

One other major by-product of the long-term recession has been the private sector client's - particularly the property market's - increasing awareness that as it is paying the piper it should have more say in calling the tune.

This is partly because of

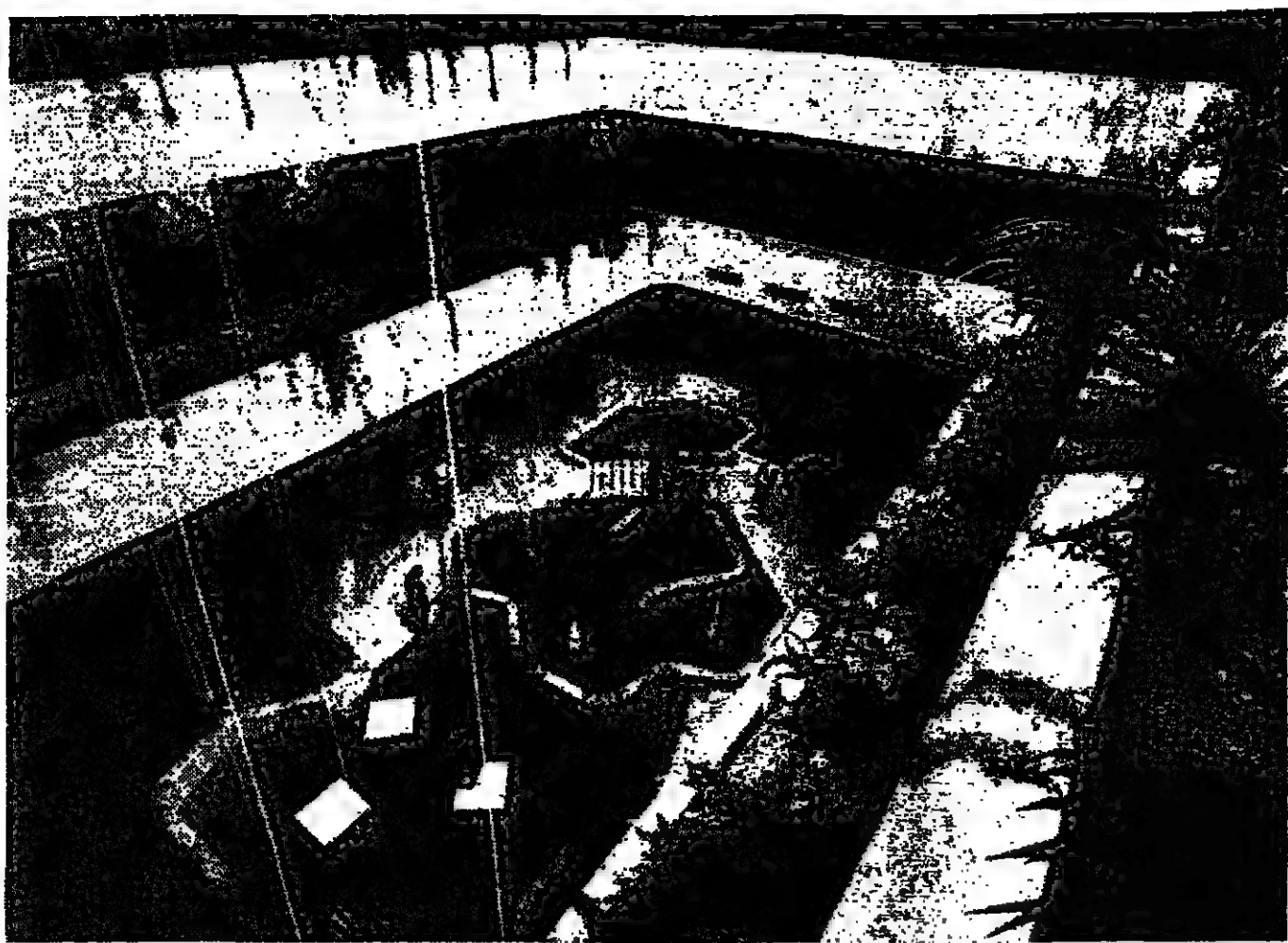
lessons learnt from American experience; and partly to contractors moving from public sector contracts, where accounting for every penny of expenditure and the avoidance of the corruption of public officers were more important than getting the job done quickly.

The introduction of new types of building contract, the changing responsibility of the consultant (particularly the architect), and the setting up of performance-orientated project management contracting firms (under various guises) have meant that some very positive changes have come about during difficult times.

Recession has meant a leaner industry: in some respects it is a fitter one, while in others it is positively anorectic. The industry is also more accountable than ever before, to its clients and the public at large.

Its greatest challenge is to keep its nerve while bearing the brunt of continuing restraint in public sector, capital projects; maintaining standards of relationship between all those who are part of the building process; and training new recruits for an industry which faces an uncertain future.

Charles Kneviat
Architecture Correspondent



Looking down on the Crown offices in Cardiff which were built by the Property Services Agency

The new heritage of fine building

The construction industry has undergone profound changes lately, yet the public's perception of it has hardly kept pace. Which is why the Chartered Institute of Building wanted to use the opportunity of its 150th anniversary celebrations to put over a few facts about it in 1984.

Building Tomorrow's Heritage is the promotional aspect of the institute's anniversary. Its objects are "to generate a greater knowledge and clearer understanding of building and to demonstrate that it is a complex, well-managed, technically advanced industry, providing the nation with a fine new heritage of good-quality buildings, as well as preserving the best of the old".

Douglas G. Goddard, deputy chief executive of the institute and the man responsible for coordinating the campaign, is under no illusions about the scale of the task and the scepticism with which some people will greet such worthy aims.

He says: "Our sophisticated, demanding and articulate society is rightly questioning the quality of the built environment for which the building industry is primarily responsible. There is an intense demand for aesthetically pleasing and yet economically functional buildings and the industry has never before come up against so much public scrutiny and pressure to produce buildings of quality".

To help it in its task, it has enlisted the support of Rotary clubs and chamber of commerce, women's institutes and public libraries, 1,000 building society branch offices and hundreds of individuals outside, as well as within, the industry.

With the campaign now into its ninth month, and the "Go Site-Seeing" campaign associated with it now in its fourth month, Mr Goddard is delighted with the response.

Activities organized by the institute's regional and branch offices include a computer-building game for schools and

ambitious sponsorship of the National Association of Boys' Clubs' building project, both by the Eastern Region, a mobile BTH Portakabin which toured the West Midlands Region during the summer; and the Southern Region's Festival of Building which attracted 6,000 visitors.

Still to come are a joint CIOB/Royal Institute of British Architects' float at the Lord Mayor's Show; and an Open Day at the Government's Building Research Establishment at Garston, near Watford, in December. During the

Most contractors are only too anxious to keep the public clear of their sites. Eight-foot-high hoardings, steel-mesh fencing and padlocked gates are enough to get over the message. But as part of the CIOB's 150th anniversary celebrations a national "Go Site-seeing" programme has been organized to encourage people, and especially schoolchildren and students - to visit buildings under construction and learn more about the process.

The campaign was launched by Dame Mary Donaldson, Lord Mayor of London, at the £157m Lloyds' building in the City, on June 4. Other prestigious sites, out of nearly 400 which have opened since then, include Paradise Circus, Birmingham; the restored Royal Pavilion, Brighton; and the new £36m Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow.

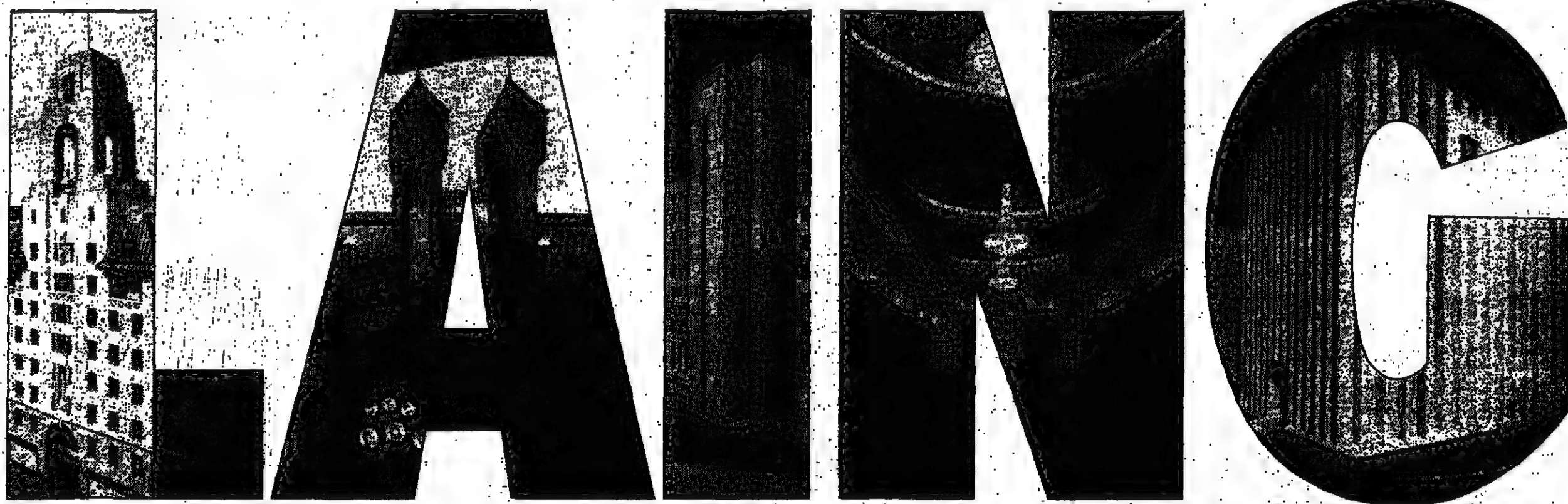
autumn schools will be involved in competitions and projects aimed at reaching the next generation of builders and building users.

The CIOB's conference which opens at the new Anagnaga Conference Centre, near Egham, tomorrow will provide an opportunity for its many overseas members to meet, and for plans to be made for an International Confederation of Institutes of Building.

CK



Englemere, the headquarters of the Chartered Institute of Building, at Ascot



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The pressure of VAT, and how to beat the cowboy

Construction is a federation of incestuous industries. This multiple personality is one reason that reports of the failure or success of the "construction industry" should be treated with caution. The problems of the civil engineering industry, for instance, with its 90 per cent dependence on public funds, differ totally from those of housebuilding and general contracting.

Contractors and builders also vary greatly from the "cowboys" — the fly-by-nighters — offering to "do yer drive for yer guv" in the twilight zone of the black economy, to nationally respected organizations.

The twilight zone has more than its fair share of publicity, but it is this "market" that stands most to gain from the imposition of 15 per cent VAT on building alterations earlier this year. Builders protested that small companies would be forced out of business, but to no avail.

Builders shiver at the thought of VAT being spread across the board, despite Patrick Jenkin's assurances that the Government will oppose any move by the EEC to apply VAT to new property development. Meanwhile, one way in which the success of the cowboys could be lessened is for building societies to insist that domestic work is carried out by VAT-registered firms.

Government intransigence on VAT only mirrors its general policy towards the industries. The token visits to No 10 are unlikely to offset the fact that the public client is now no longer the major force in

general contracting. This withdrawal of public support has been painful, but it has sharpened the appetite for new markets and forced companies to adopt an attitude in which the client's need comes first. The chairman of Y. I. Lovell and senior vice-president of the Chartered Institute of Building, Norman Wakefield, noted this "quiet revolution" at a conference on the Building EDC report, *Faster building for industry*.

He pointed to the emergence of the private sector as the dominant client and a greater awareness of value for money in the public sector as being the main factors which have forced builders to become involved in development risks. Mr Wake-

field said: "The builder has taken charge for the first time in years. He is there to build a building, not beat the contract fine print. He is actually in control; sub-contractors can and will perform; suppliers will supply; labourers will labour... completion on time has become a reality."

Wakefield is backing these brave words in print with an award-winning advertising campaign for Lovell. Its object is to reach the client directly by a free, videotape, a clever marketing play in an industry not noted for sophistication in advertising and publicity.

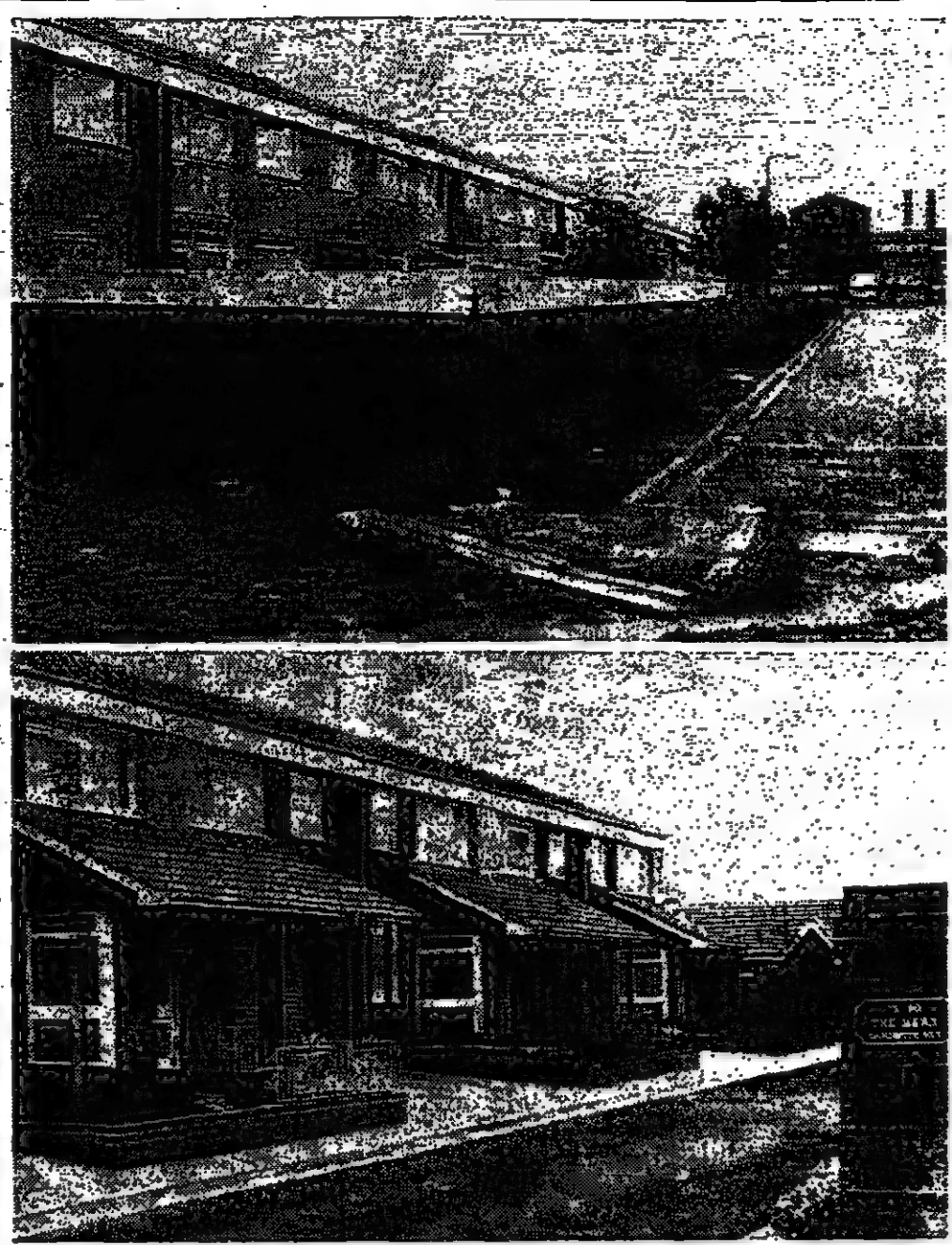
Firms such as Lovell are developing new markets in house-partnership schemes with local authorities, joint ventures with developers and in direct approaches to commercial and industrial clients to persuade them that new, tailor-made premises can boost productivity. The National Council of Building Material Producers says that there is more demand for specialized industrial building to high specification than demand for simple space. There is also a distinct regional bias with most of the activity concentrated in the southern half of the country.

The imbalance in trading between the South and South-east and the rest of the UK is a point taken by Cliff Gill, Wimpey Construction's director in charge of the southern area. He says: "The latest figures indicate that 35 per cent of the industry's output is located in the South-east and 40 per cent of this 35 per cent is in the Greater London area."

He says that civil engineering is in the doldrums and major expenditure in the South-east is principally limited to the London orbital motorway and power stations elsewhere in the country. Looking at the marketplace generally, Gill confirms the probable growth in industrial building over the next two years, but adds that this starts from a very low base. In the public sector he sees government spending controls affecting the market harshly with possible exceptions being prisons and local authority leisure developments.

"Ironically," says Mr Gill, "with a high level of unemployment, both the private and public leisure market would appear to be a growth market." The increase in rates is just one of the problems facing housebuilders. In its submission to the National Federation of Housing Association's *Inquiry into British Housing*, the Chartered Institute of Building says that "land for building is both scarce and expensive and often in the wrong place. Cheap housing on expensive land imposes commercial constraints which dictate the type, quality and density of a development. Bungalows are popular but they are rarely built because of land scarcity."

Terry Roydon, president of the Housebuilders Federation, says that by the beginning of 1985 "the problem of land supply will have become acute: in some areas this means that many young people cannot afford to buy their first home. In Cranmore-Widney, Solihull



Houses at Stockbridge council estate, Liverpool, before and after refurbishment as part of a £30m five-year project involving 3,500 homes. Barratt has been developer and contractor for the scheme in partnership with Government, a bank, a building society and the housing corporation.

for example, the price of land has reached £125,000 an acre, making the price of land between £8,000 and £15,000 a house, depending on its size."

Mr Roydon counters the claim that there is enough derelict land in the inner cities for all new house building. "In Birmingham, for instance, the local council is doing all it can to make city land available for new homes, but the supply is finite and soon the land available where people want to live will be running out."

Over the last few years the housebuilding industry has become acutely aware of the need to smooth the way for buyers with attractive finance arrangements, part-exchange deals, and housing targeted

towards particular groups. The housebuilders have also pooled their resources in a major promotion for new housing through the New Homes Marketing Board.

These innovations have also had their hiccup, with criticism of starter homes and timber-frame construction. The Chartered Institute of Building has suggested that the use of new methods and materials in housing should be well-researched to meet stringent standards set by independent bodies. The problem is that producers need the results of tests fast in order to meet the needs of the market, but materials and methods require long-term testing. The systems building fiasco — the cost of

repairs to which is, ironically, providing a market for the industry — is a reminder that grand scale "live" testing of housing can be a disaster.

In the general contracting and civil engineering industries, the overseas market has provided an outlet in the past years from the recession at home. Charles Dampney, a partner in stock-brokers Savory Milin, says that major contractors who were well established in the Middle East secured some very profitable work.

He added: "By contrast, many of our medium-sized companies who entered the boom in the latter part of the 1970s emerged with burnt fingers."

IN PROFILE

Keeping an eye on the profits

Michael Millwood, President, Building Employers Confederation; joint vice-chairman of John Laing PLC, parent company of the Laing Group



Born in Southend-on-Sea in 1929, and educated at Pinner County Grammar School, Michael Millwood joined John Laing on leaving school in 1946 as an articled pupil. Apart from two years' National Service, he has been with the company ever since.

He qualified as a quantity surveyor and was president of the Institute of Quantity Surveyors in 1973-74. He is presently a member of the General Council of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. From 1975 to 1983 he was chairman of the Confederation of Building Employers and is now its deputy chairman. He was its representative on the Joint Contracts Tribunal in 1973 and recently became chairman of the newly-formed Industry Workload Steering Group.

In 1980 he was appointed to the board of John Laing, and in 1983 was appointed its joint vice-chairman. He is married with a son and daughter and lives in Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire.

As the first full-time national president of the Building Employers Confederation, Mr Millwood spends most of his time away from John Laing. But he says that the main issue confronting a company of Laing's size is the need to secure work which maintains its

position at a time of reduced workload, and maintains its profitability.

It is continuing its presence overseas, while looking for new markets at home and becoming more involved in property developments. It is also taking on smaller jobs than many would not associate with one of the country's biggest contractors.

Problems include the availability of land for the housebuilding, an issue taken up by the House-Builders Federation; the effects of the introduction of value-added tax in the last Budget, especially as it has dampened institutional investment in refurbishment projects; and the availability of certain skills among the workforce, but only in certain areas. "It is not a major problem," he says.

He adds: "As a major contractor the biggest challenge is trying to plan ahead for workload. It is becoming increasingly difficult as the Government continues to use the industry as an economic regulator. Like everyone in the industry, he would like to see the Government devoting more to capital projects such as building and civil engineering."

The present situation overseas, according to Robert Wharton, managing director of High-Point Services Group plc, is that contractors must be willing to understand and contribute to the financial success of a project. Banks and funding agencies are no longer willing to see their money pour into a bottomless pit.

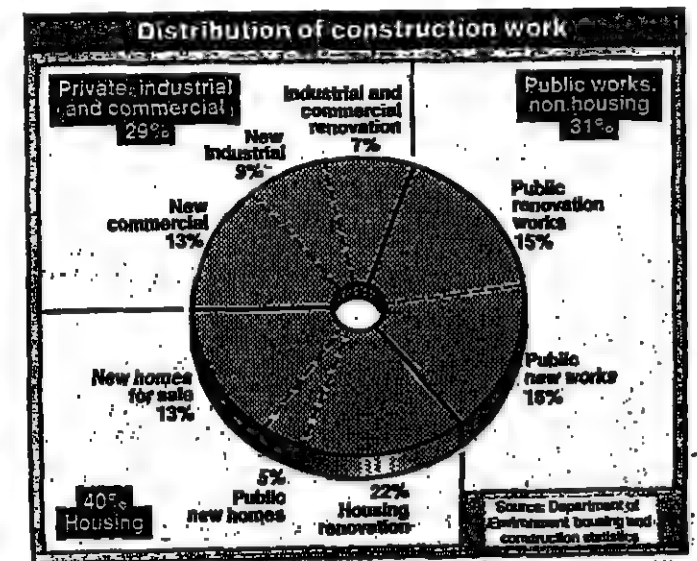
They demand better controls on overspending. Agencies also question the need to put 20 per cent of the finance up front in order to get projects off the ground. Contractors will not be able to get involved unless they are able to raise this money.

According to the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, the home market for the industry remains poor. The FCEC blames the mismatch between short-term budgeting in the public sector compared with the longer-term planning

needed for civil engineering projects. The federation says: "Patrick Jenkin's restrictions on local authority spending are timely examples of the kind of stop-start policies which have inhibited prudent capital planning."

Road-building continues to be the major civil-engineering sector, but figures show that this may begin to tail off in 1985/86. Capital investment on water and sewerage has virtually halved in the last decade, but there are signs of a modest improvement. In one field, however, in contradiction to the norm, government policy has had a dramatically positive effect, in defence work, says the Federation, there has been a tenfold increase in the five years up to 1983/84.

Ken Lane
Editor, Building Technology & Management



"3,204 Hanover Housing Association homes upgraded to Civic Shield Award standard. It's been one of the best things we could have done for our tenants."

Colin T. Shaw
Housing Manager,
Hanover Housing Association

The result has been tremendous. Our tenants now have a better form of heating, and their bills in comparison are lower. We've improved the quality of their lives, and we've also improved the fabric of our dwellings.

That's the enthusiastic verdict of Colin Shaw, Housing Manager of the Hanover Housing Association, on their massive programme of upgrading older properties to electricity's Civic Shield Award standard.

"We decided not to convert to another fuel, but to upgrade the existing electric systems," he says. "By doing this, in line with the DEN 3 recommendations, we are eligible for funds from both central and local agencies."

"Nearly half of our total housing stock — mostly one and two bedroom flats — now has improved insulation and 'Economy 7' storage heating and water heating, using less than half price overnight electricity. The work involves very little disturbance. No-one has had to move out — a great advantage for our elderly tenants."

"Other advantages for us are low capital costs, minimum maintenance, and much improved landlord/tenant relations."

"The tenants are very, very pleased. We're actually getting letters saying 'thank you'."

"The service we get from the electricity industry is good. As a national organisation we work with all the Electricity Boards, with back-up from the Electricity Council itself. They're helping us continually with rehabilitation, and we're now considering Civic Shield for our new building programme too."

THE BALANCE OF HEATING COSTS IS CHANGING.

The electric heating and water heating in Civic Shield Award schemes make the most of Economy 7 overnight electricity, at less than half the price of today's normal domestic rate. No wonder that every year more Local Authorities and Housing Associations are weighing up the costs... adopting the "DEN 3" approach and opting for Civic Shield. Over 25,000 new and upgraded homes now have the Civic Shield Award. If you're responsible for public sector housing, get more details now from your Electricity Board, or from 'Civic Shield Award', BuildElectric Bureau, 28 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT Telephone: 01-580 4986 or dial 100 and ask for Freefone BuildElectric.

THE BALANCE OF HOME HEATING COSTS IS CHANGING.

BUILDELECTRIC
The Electricity Council, England and Wales.

THE BUILDERS

A comeback for the old Victorian rosette

Nostalgic appeal of good red bricks

Tradition is a word modern architects love to hate. Yet none of these custodians of taste and style in modern architecture seems to have succeeded in quelling a widespread inclination towards natural building materials such as red brick and stone, reminiscent of the nation's country houses, cathedrals, castles and universities.

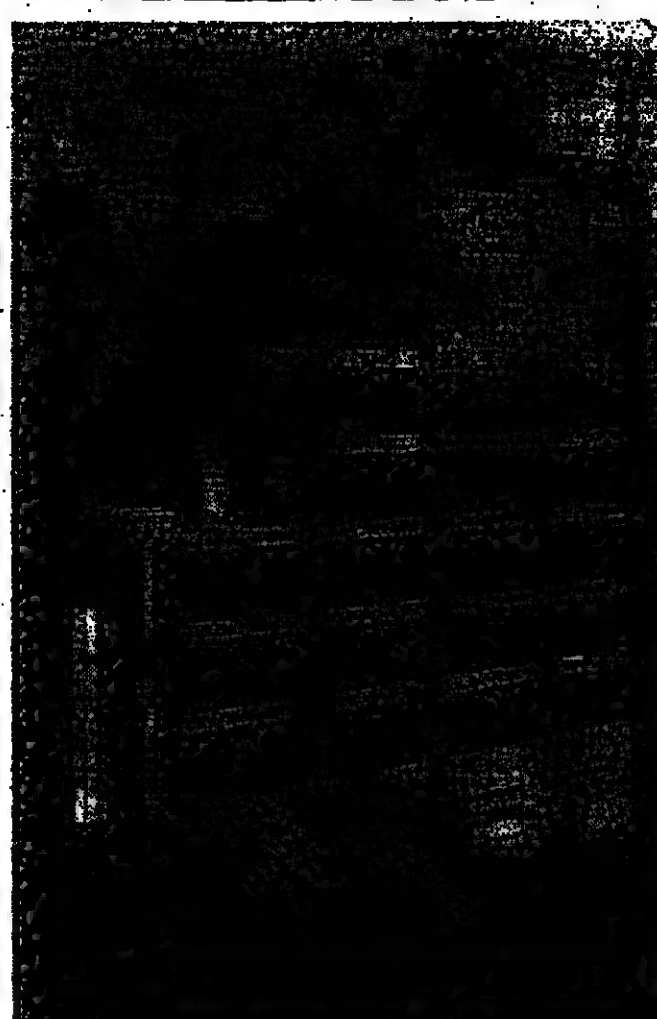
Before Prince Charles uttered a word of his preference for beautiful architecture, building-material manufacturers were beginning to notice a hankering for a look appropriate to local settings.

Despite this revival for some types of bricks, the market in general is undergoing a transition. The whole industry is suffering from a shortfall of 50 million bricks a month. Deliveries of all types of bricks rose by 1 per cent over the January-to-June figure for last year, even though manufacturers were expecting a smaller demand. A decline is evident in the July-only figure for this year over last year's July-only figure, which is 3 per cent down for all brick deliveries. But a revival ensures some bricks will experience a buoyant level of demand.

Istock Johnson, known as the "Harrods" of the brick manufacturers, is reported to be "struggling to keep up with demand" for its more attractive bricks. A company official said: "We are still taking out of stock, but the stocks are getting low".

To meet demand in the refurbishment sector, the company in 1981-82 began making bricks such as the old Victorian rosette and diamond pattern that had disappeared from the market. But recent news of the government cutting back even further on home improvement grants as well as a decline in private housebuilding this year is likely to affect these markets.

Demand for reconstituted stone seems to be benefiting from this return to traditional materials. E. H. Bradley Building Products Limited in Wiltshire reports that its products are selling, mainly to conservation areas. Its sales are 10,000 to



London's 10-storey Lloyds Chambers office development changing to a steel frame cut the contract period by nearly nine months.

11,000 metres a week - an average size house needing between 130 and 150 metres.

Timber was used extensively in the construction of our historic town and country houses. Yet timber-frame, with brick cladding - a modern method of system building using imported timber from Scandinavia is experiencing a reaction against it from medium to small house-builders. Some of them in turn are informing potential house-buyers that they sell "traditional" houses only - built with brick and block.

Timber frame housing down

The National House-Building Council in its quarterly bulletin on the market share of types of housing reports that timber frame's share is falling from 22 per cent last June to just over 14 per cent this June. The percentage is expected to hover around the 15 mark this month.

In Scotland, where timber-frame is most popular, the Scottish House-Builders Federation is waiting to confirm anecdotal evidence that the share has dropped from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. House-builders are loath to attribute this fall exclusively to last year's *World In Action* television programme warning of the danger of condensation in these houses, although none has yet been found. Mud flung in the programme on the laxity of site practice in this method of building seems to have stuck to Bannatt house-builders. The company's pre-tax profit is expected by analysts to slide from £52.2m last June to between £35m and £32m this year.

A building-materials analyst, Angus Phaire, of Fielding Newson Smith, forecasts that because of changes in the rules governing capital allowances, if companies are going to construct new buildings for plant, it is going to be now. He says: "The private industrial and commercial figures are massively increasing. For instance, in

May this year, the figure for private industrial orders is 70.4 per cent up on last year. Private commercial orders are 39.4 per cent up.

Mr Phaire thinks this will cause a gap in 1987: "If all the private industrial and commercial building is brought forward, which would have been placed anyway, when you come to 1986-87, there will be a yawning gap."

Manufacturers most likely to benefit from this are those in steel and concrete, albeit in the short term. Architects in the news recently building with structural steel are Richard Rogers, who designed the new Lloyd's Chambers in the City. (Described by one Londoner as an "oil refinery"), and Norman Foster.

Manufacturers of concrete cannot deny that some clients are switching to steel. But they do dispute British Steel's figures. They say there is no method of calculating just how many buildings are constructed from reinforced concrete so how can BSC claim its steel framing accounts for 38 per cent of the total floor area of buildings of two storeys and over, compared with 42 per cent for in-situ concrete?

British Steel's structural steels marketing manager, Bob Letter, goes on to claim that in high rise buildings (six-storeys and over) the growth in the use of steel has been "even more striking, jumping from just 8 per cent in 1980 to 23 per cent in 1984." One of the reasons for this, he says, is that "from June 1976 to December 1983 the cost of ready-mixed concrete has risen nearly 2½ times as much as structural steel while that of structural pre-cast and prestressed units has increased more than twice as much."

The concrete industry's answer to that is that BSC's costs are kept artificially low because it is a nationalized industry. Trent Concrete Structures also challenges Mr Letter's figures. In a report extensively chronicling the cost comparisons of using in-situ, pre-cast concrete and steel, it posits that its pre-cast T6 system can save 9.2 per cent of the client's in-situ costs on a 10-storey building constructed in a 101-week period - five times faster than steel.

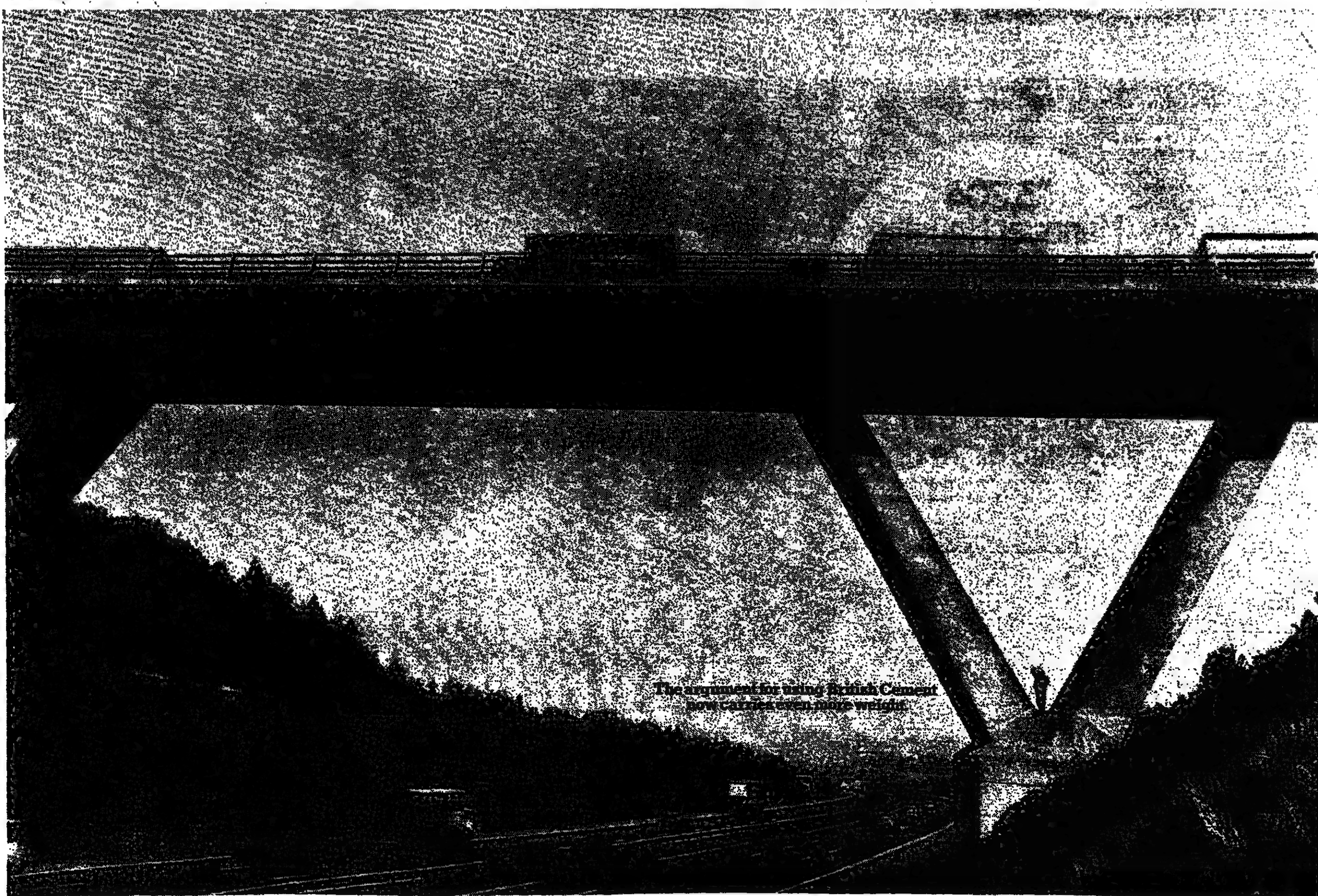
Pilkington glass is also likely to benefit from this interlude in the construction industry's recession. It is the sole manufacturer of flat glass and safety glass in the UK and is responsible for all the sales, with 33 per cent of the market share. But Pilkington's is not pausing to point out that it is not connected to the fortunes of the building industry.

Madeleine Dyer

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Contracts: it's not just keeping clients happy

Bardolph:
*When we mean to build,
We first survey the plot, then
draw the model.
And when we see the figure of
the house,
Then must we rate the cost of the
erection,
Which if we find outweighs
ability,
What do we then but draw anew
the model
In fewer offices, or, at least,
desist
To build at all?*
Henry IV (Part II), Act I, Scene III

Bardolph, one of the "irregular humours" along with Falstaff, Pistol and Peto in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, was playing the straight man when he described the initial stages in commissioning a new building.

The British Property Federation, which has recently decided to play a much more prominent role as the client of so much of the construction industry's current workload, thought it appropriate to quote these lines in the introduction to its *Manual of the BPF System for Building Design and Construction*, published just before Christmas last year. "No doubt it was meant to serve as a gentle reminder to contractors that whoever signs the cheques expects to know exactly what he is getting, and how much it is going to cost, before there is a firm commitment to build."

The BPF's entry into the contract world was inevitable. It is the most recent stage in a process which has seen a significant change in role for the architect, as the traditional "project leader", and in the main contractor reducing his responsibility and risk by passing it on to a variety of sub-contractors.

Whoever signs the cheques expects to know exactly what he is getting, and how much it is going to cost, before there is a firm commitment to build.

Today the project manager is as likely to be an engineer, or surveyor, or professional building manager as an architect, as the philosophy of the BPF's approach begins to filter through the industry. The only doubt which remains is the speed at which the change will come about, and how much will be sacrificed on the altar of compromise by the different parties.

To a large degree the BPF's approach introduces a practical response to a number of key findings in the June 1983 *Factor building for industry* report by the Building EDC. Especially, the conclusions that:

- "fast building is possible without sacrificing either cost or quality";
- "responsibilities within the (building) team must be clearly defined and in particular the customer must be clear as to who is the team leader";
- and "inexperienced customers need advice".

The Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) was formed more than 50 years ago to draw up model contracts between clients and contractors, and contractors and their sub-contractors; but only in the last year has the private client been represented.

The BPF, which represents property developers, shopping chains, banks and insurance companies, among others, published the manual to explain how it wanted contracts organised in future.

Among its innovations are the appointment of a client's representative to manage his interest, freeing the designer from management responsibility; an independent adjudicator is appointed to settle any disputes or disagreements between the consultants, contractor and client; the contractor is made responsible for a proportion of the design; bills of quantities are done away with

in favour of a "schedule of activities"; contractors can appoint whichever sub-contractors they choose; and the price is known in advance.

"The system provides for good management, places responsibility with those best able to carry it and includes incentives to consultants and contractors alike, encouraging them to improve buildability," says the Federation. "More attractive and practical buildings should result. Moreover, the buildings will be provided at previously agreed prices."

Peter Short, president of the Chartered Institute of Building, which represents 28,000 building managers, says he is not surprised by the BPF move: it is up to the industry to respond positively. In fact the institute has collaborated closely with the BPF in organizing two conferences at which more than 700 delegates discussed the new system, which it supports in principle.

But it qualifies its support by saying that the BPF's own members must provide the appropriate time for the required information, advice and decisions demanded by the system, avoiding indecision and variations which has been a weakness of other recent systems; and the detailed procedures must be practical, equitable and straightforward in operation.

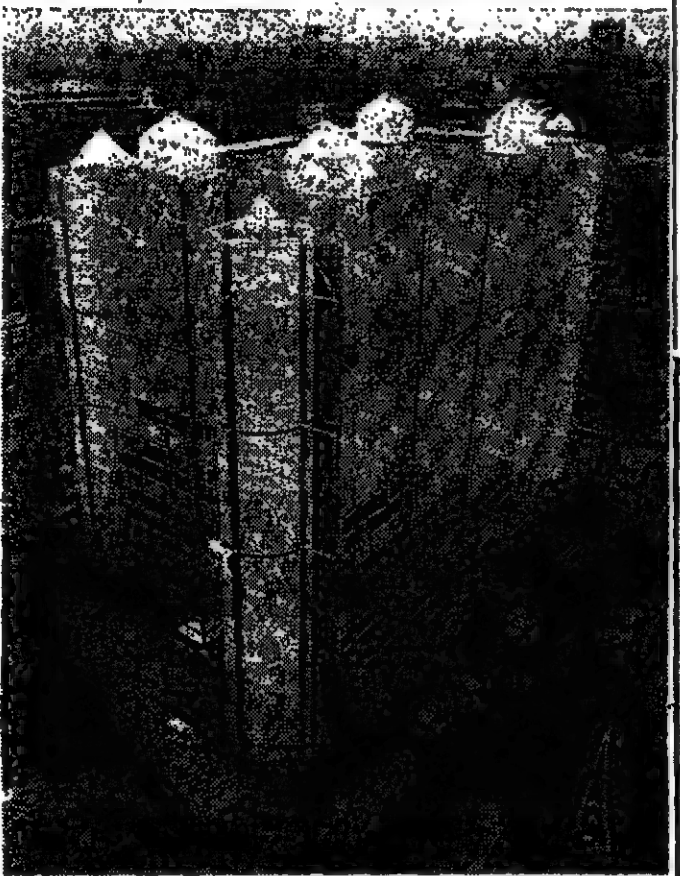
Norman Wakefield, chairman and chief executive of the

Lovell Group, has described the BPF system as "a blow for freedom". He says: "I am not for them because they represent a panacea - a miracle cure for all our diseases - but because I sense a sincere and intelligent attempt to break through the traditional straightjackets in which we bind ourselves, to our mutual disadvantage."

Nevertheless he went on to describe the manual as "probably the most untested, imperfect, unrefined, contentious, biased, even - in places - unworkable proposition ever to be dropped into the lap of a surprised industry."

David Trench, managing director of the project management firm, Trench Farrow & Partners, and a consultant to the BPF working party, says that various parts of the manual have been adopted in many existing-style contracts over the past year. What has impeded its wider use has been the lack of any form of new BPF-style contract to implement it until earlier this month.

The Association of Consultant Architects is working with the BPF to adapt its form of contract to the federation's new system; and last week the seeds of a compromise were reached with the main stream of the building industry; the JCT Standard Form With Contractor's Design might be amended to satisfy all parties.



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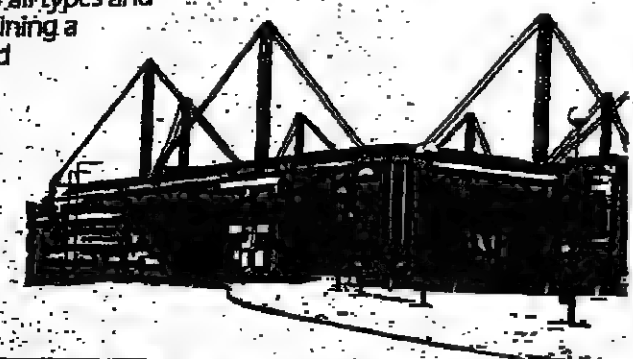


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IN PROFILE The effect of the miners' strike

Peter Short, President, The Chartered Institute of Building, chairman and managing director, J A B Short Ltd, Chesterfield

Peter Short was born in 1928 and educated at Repton School. He succeeded Hugh Try as president of the Chartered Institute of Building in May.

He began his career as an indentured trainee with Henry Boot & Sons for four years, before joining the family business founded by his grandfather, J A B Short. He was appointed a director of the firm in 1952 and rose to become its chairman and managing director as well as head of its subsidiary and associate companies. He also holds director-

ships in a number of companies in the fields of investment, property development, building and the leisure industry.

He was elected a fellow of the institute in 1966 and has held posts in his local centre and region. He is a member of the Finance Advisory Committee and Policy Committee, and was vice-chairman of the Board of Building Education from 1977-1981 and chairman of the Membership Board from 1981 to 1983. He has also held several posts in local regions of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers (now BEC) and House-Builders Federation.

He is married and lives in Nottingham. He has a married

daughter and a son who is a chartered surveyor.

As a small to medium-sized general contractor, with an emphasis on private house building, Mr Short shares a concern with many others in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire about the effects of the prolonged coal mining strike. The spin-offs are considerable for the local economy, including house sales, and for tenants of private property lets.

Much of his work is refurbishment, with little or no local authority schemes. His major problems are related to land availability for housing; the delay in receiving planning consents; and infrastructure.

Getting the guarantees

Attempts to speed up the building process, to produce work on time and on budget with no loss of quality, has led virtually all the country's major contractors to set up new divisions in recent years. These tend to operate in parallel, but as an alternative to the normal tendering procedure.

David Jennings, marketing manager of *Housing Gate Design and Build*, says: "The fact that with design and build the client can talk to a single organization, who can define their requirements and translate them into a design solution against a fixed cost and programme, presents a very attractive proposition."

The IDC Group, which has built its success on design and build, has introduced a Guaranteed Maximum Price form of contract which goes a stage further. A fully integrated service is provided with a guaranteed maximum price immediately the requirements have been agreed.

It means a final account can be prepared before the works are started, and can only be varied if ordered by the client. Ashley and Horner's Team Contracts is another design and build operation.

Taylor Woodrow Construction is working on several huge management contracts: the £35m reconstruction of Alexandra Palace in north London; the £200m Heathrow Terminal 4 project, one of the largest in Europe; and in July it was appointed by Vauxhall Motors to build a £27m new paintshop at the car plant in Luton.

The company established a separate division in the 1970s to carry out management contracting. It says that as there is an overlap between the design, tendering and construction periods, considerable savings in both time and cost result.

One of the most recent entries to the field is the Trafalgar House Group through two of its subsidiaries, Trollope & Colls Management and Cementation Projects. Since May it has offered management contracting, design/construct and project management.

Bovis has undertaken about 1,100 management fee contracts for Marks and Spencer over a period of more than 30 years, as the original company offering this service.

But when there is still a considerable amount of confusion among members of the industry about terms - design

and build, management contracting, management fee and so on - how is the client going to be able to decide just what he wants?

Derek Hammond, principal of the country's largest independent project manager, thinks it is time everyone came to terms with the terms the industry uses. He runs the APC International Group within which the PMI project management partnership has operated since 1965.

He has produced a series of definitions of the various types of contract now generally available, based on information produced by the National Economic Development Office.

● **Types of Contract: Project management**
The project manager provides overall coordination of all aspects of any major construction project on behalf of the client, and is responsible for the preparation of the brief, together with the detailed programming and supervision of the design process.

The project manager will select the most appropriate form of contract and generally act as coordinator during the construction period. Project management appointments are

only secured from clients, never via architects or quantity surveyors.

● **Management contract**
The management contractor provides planning, management and coordination on site for a fee agreed at the outset, but all construction work is sub-let against competitive bids. Orders and sub-contracts are placed by the management contractor who has some contractual risk. Projects are secured via clients, architects and quantity surveyors.

● **Management fee**
The contractor is responsible for planning, management and coordination of the project together with undertaking a substantial amount of the construction work directly. The cost of the project is based on the estimate of prime cost negotiated with the quantity surveyors as the design develops.

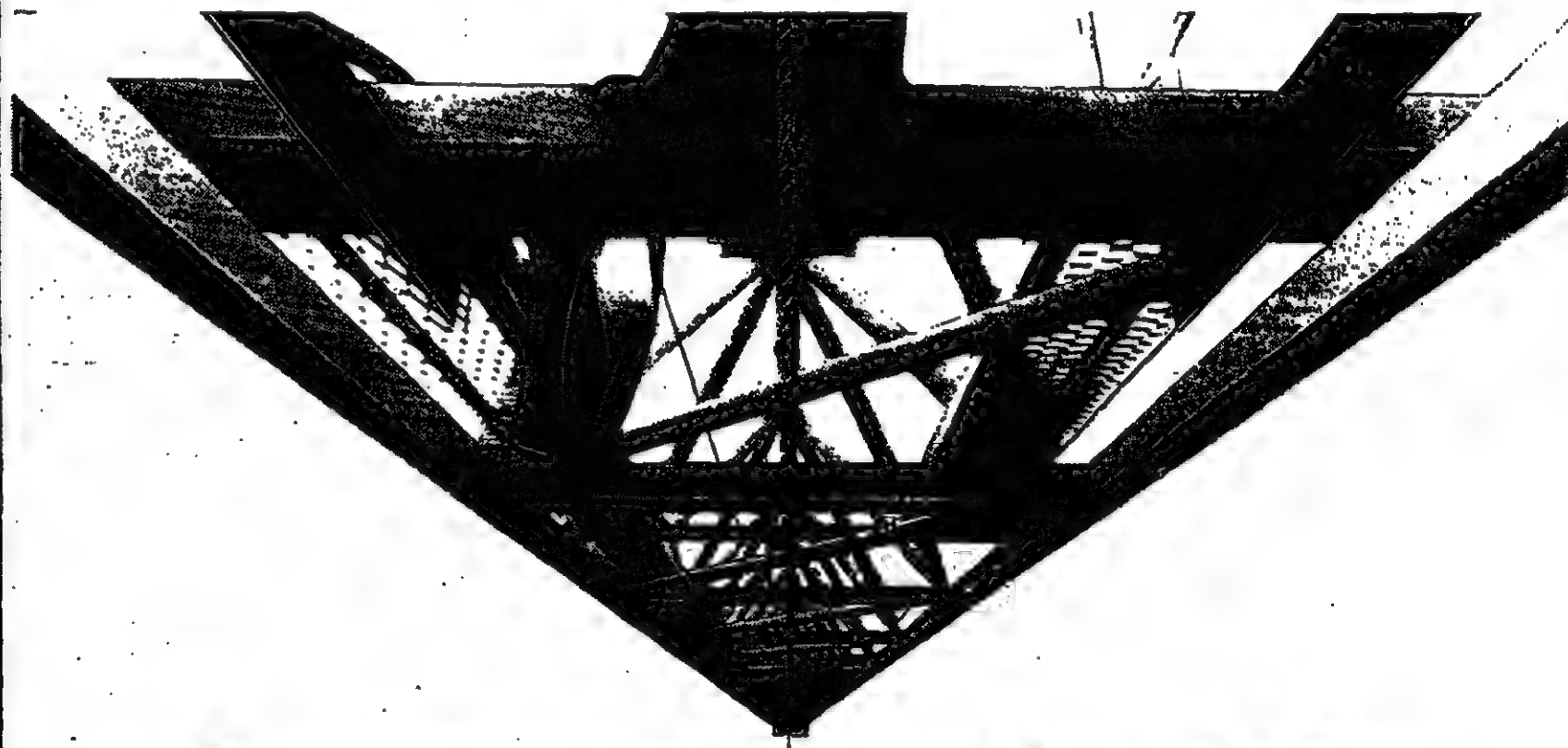
Orders and sub-contracts of non-direct works are placed by the management contractor who has some contractual risk. The actual fee paid may vary with a formula related to construction performance. Projects are secured via clients, architects and quantity surveyors.

● **Construction management**
The contractor is responsible for planning, management and coordination of the project and for establishing competitive bids for all elements of the work. The actual orders are placed directly by the client. The construction manager accepts no contractual risk. Projects are obtained from clients, architects and quantity surveyors.

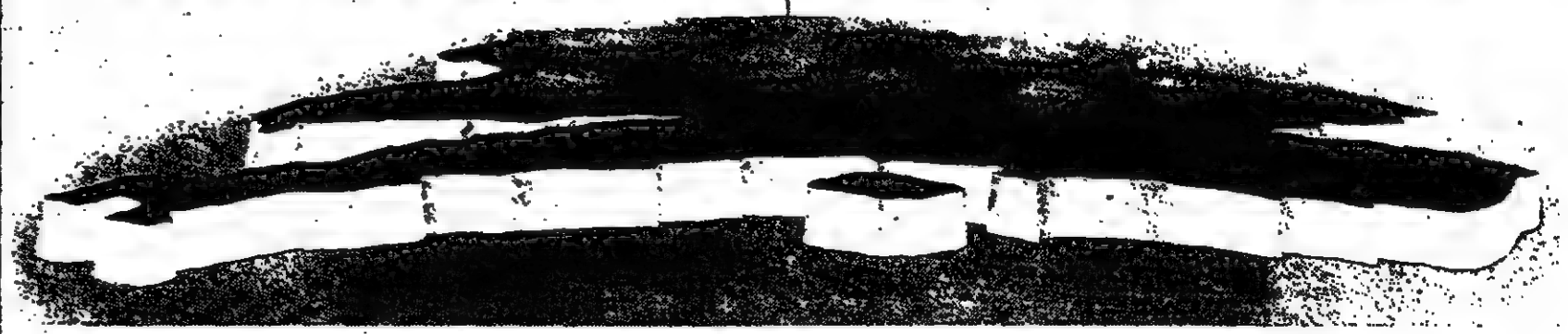
● **Two-stage tender (fast track)**
The contractor prices an approximate bill of quantities with a fixed sum for preliminaries, overhead and profit, and fixed rates for the elements in the bill of quantities. This form of contract does allow for early contract or participation and depends on its success on the information available to the contractor at the outset.

The contractor is fully responsible within the terms of the contract. Projects are seldom obtained from clients, normally from architects and quantity surveyors.

● **Standard form of contract**
The contractor prices a bill of quantities which forms part of the standard form of contract, and may be on a fixed price or variable basis. The contractor is responsible for all orders and all sub-contractors, some of whom may be nominated.



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When it comes to choosing a building contractor, bigger doesn't automatically mean better.

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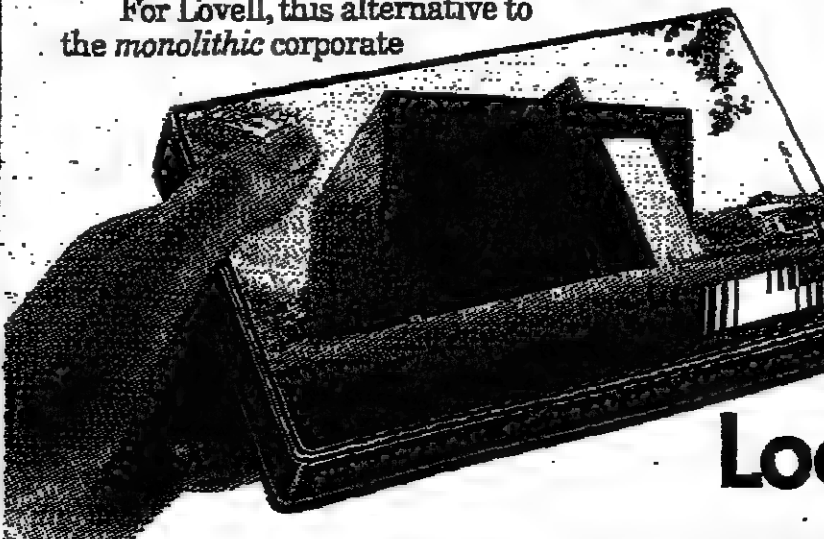
For Lovell, this alternative to the monolithic corporate

structure has made it possible to preserve just those conditions that brought success in the first place: action, adaptability, in-house craft skills, local decision making and a management style that keeps senior people in touch with the daily demands of every client. Yet all with the central technical and design services that give you the best of both worlds.

In short, Lovell's Law has produced a more responsive builder, able to bring a real sense of purpose to the site no matter what the form of contract.

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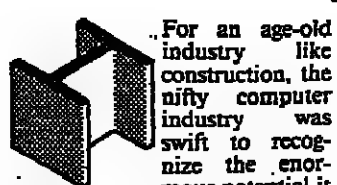
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THE BUILDERS

An up-to-date aid to an age-old business - or an unnecessary gimmick?

How the computer found itself with a constructive new role



For an age-old industry like construction, the computer is a new tool to recognize the enormous potential it presents for information technology. Unconfirmed estimates suggest about 10 per cent of the industry's 80,000 construction companies, ranging from one-man bands to giants like the Wimpey Group are computerized to a greater or lesser extent. And with those 10 per cent, it is likely computer salesmen have learned to change their sales pitch from saving the industry money by shedding people like estimators and replacing them with machines, to ensuring machines will not replace estimators, merely enhance their efficiency.

Many builders will remain with their heads in their yards of sand. But other sectors, such as building design, have welcomed computers as an agent of freedom.

At the recent Central and Local Government Show, Stephen Quinlan, an architect with the construction industry's biggest client, the Property Services Agency, outlined just how valuable computer-aided design (CAD) has been to the design of British Telecom's new headquarters in the City.

Constructed by Higgs & Hill on the old Central Telegraph Office site, the building has nine storeys and a specialized roof structure. Mr Quinlan related how the constant need to amend drawings makes computer-aided design indispensable.

"CAD is particularly quick in this area," Mr Quinlan explained. "We can use the system to produce floor-plan drawings for coordination with various

factions involved in the scheme".

One particular example of how CAD saved the client a considerable amount of money was when the air-conditioning and ceiling mounts on the plans had to be changed. As a result of using the system, the minimum amount of time was spent redrawing the plans to fit the mechanical engineers' renewed specification.

Some architects have "technofright" in that they fear CAD will take over the design of buildings. Mr Quinlan disagrees. "It is cost-effective, but it is not an alternative. Our sketches are still produced in the same way in our traditional drawing office".

Mr Quinlan looks forward to the day when the agency will be able to use the telephone to transfer drawings from office to site. "I see its main use in producing technical drawings economically and to a high standard, allowing architects to spend more time with their clients".

Forward-looking contractors like the Wimpey Group assemble their own microcomputers in-house. It developed a micro suitable for both office and building-site use and has installed more than 100 in its offices at home and overseas. It also writes software in-house for its construction and house-building sectors. The company recently sold 26 of its micros to British Petroleum together with a software package entitled Microcompass.

This package is designed for cost-planners and project managers. It calculates the start and finish dates on site as well as cost-scheduling and can present information in the form of graphs and bar charts. These micros mark Wimpey's entrance into the computer-sales field. They have a storage capacity of 20 megabytes and retail with a printer at £5,450.

One of the drawbacks for software companies dealing with the construction industry has been understanding its diversity, its complexity and at times the idiosyncratic way in which it works.

Richmond Software, a subsidiary of Reed International, launched an "easy-to-use" package for the industry last month. The company employs a consultant who used to be a contractor, therefore it understands more than most the

industry's needs. This package, called Cleva Plus, is for pre- and post-contract use and combines the hitherto separate packages of estimating, valuing and analysis.

This system has loaded the whole of Laxton's Building Price Book for new and refurbished works on its database so there is a cost "library". As if that is not enough, Nigel McNaught, displays a canny knowledge of the integral workings of the industry.

"One of the dangers for contractors looking at building price books is that none of them might ever get a contract", he says. "Essentially, our system goes behind the figures".

Pricing contracts

The package is sold on its ability to allow the estimator to use his own experience when pricing contracts. He can alter the data-base figures up or down to reflect local material price variations and wage rates.

The package also allows the estimator to add his own overall selected profit margin to every rate prior to contract, producing a bill of quantities with undisclosed profits. It also produces valuations and analyses the costs at the close of contract.

Mr McNaught is adamant that the package is not intended to replace estimators. "This is

no substitute for knowledge", he says. "The link between the contractor, quantity surveyor and estimator is integral to the system. He provides the post-contract continuity".

For the housebuilder, or the architect designing a house, Redland Construction Software, subsidiary of the Redland Group, produces sets of software programs which claim to cut the time for designing a roof and specifying its materials from about three hours to about 15 minutes.

Alpha 2000 provides timber-frame manufacturers with design, costing and manufacturing information. It includes programs to provide structural checks of timber-frame elements of a house and can produce designer's plans, materials and schedules of costs.

Concept 2000 is a suite of programs designed to provide trussed-rafter manufacturers with comprehensive, fast and accurate information from roof quotation to fabrication and stock control.

Gamma 2000, launched at the beginning of last month, is designed to simplify, standardize and speed up the taking of procedure for measuring and pricing quantities of materials needed in houses.

This program, using a sensitized drawing board (digitiser) linked to a computer can take quantities directly from architects' drawings. Delta 2000 estimates and manages roof-

tiling contracts for tilers and builders merchants. Zeta 2000, due out at the end of this year completes the set.

Finally, feasibility studies discussing a leap into the fifth generation of computers are being coordinated at the Cambridge-based Construction Industry Computing Association.

In a report due out next month, CICA suggests uses for these programs which could revolutionize this disaster-prone industry by helping to avoid the faults that cause disasters.

Expert systems

One of the first programs to be developed, although none is in use, is SACON, for structural engineers to be employed when considering finite element analysis of building structures. Again, the CICA points out that though these programs would be to the benefit of consultants, they would not replace consultants.

"Expert systems are likely to lead to the design office of the future as many offices require the hardware necessary", says Denis Wager, author of the report. "Expert systems could be used to assist a contractor's buying department on matching a sub-contractor's skills to a particular contract or location. Not surmounting the consultant, but helping him".

MD

Expert systems and the construction industry report is available from October from the CICA, Guildhall Place, Cambridge CB2 3QQ price £12 to members and £20 to others, postage and packing included for UK only.



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Computer-aided design techniques are well-established in building and construction. This expert at consulting engineers and architects W. S. Atkins is working on the design of a university in Algeria

IN PROFILE



Gibb, left, and Wakefield: nuclear and property aspects

Leaders of an industry we all need

Frank Gibb, CBE, President, Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, joint deputy chairman and joint managing director, Taylor Woodrow and chairman and joint managing director, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.

Frank Gibb joined Taylor Woodrow Construction in 1948 as an engineer and during his 35 years' service has been involved in major construction works such as thermal and nuclear power stations, industrial plants, tunnels and motorway projects and, in recent years, offshore oil developments.

After working on open-cast coal sites and later the construction of West Ham power station, he went to the first commercial nuclear power station site at Calder Hall. Until 1955 he was an engineer and then site agent on a number of other power

Norman Wakefield, vice-president, The Chartered Institute of Building; chairman and chief executive, Y. J. Lovell (Holdings) plc

Norman Wakefield began his career with Watts in 1947 as an articled student, progressing through site supervision, contract and general management to become managing director of Watts Construction in 1967. He spent a year in the US in 1956 and in 1970 returned there to set up and run a joint venture company for the next three years.

In 1973 he returned to the United Kingdom to become managing director of Holland Hannen and Cubitts, a post he

held until joining Lovell in 1977 as chief executive and managing director of the holding company. In 1982 he became deputy chairman and succeeded Sir Peter Trench as chairman last year.

As well as being vice-president of the Chartered Institute of Building he is chairman of its Professional Practice Board, he is also vice-chairman of the National Contractors Group of the Building Employers Confederation, and a member of its executive committee.

He has spoken out in favour of the British Property Federation's proposals for changing responsibilities in the building process.

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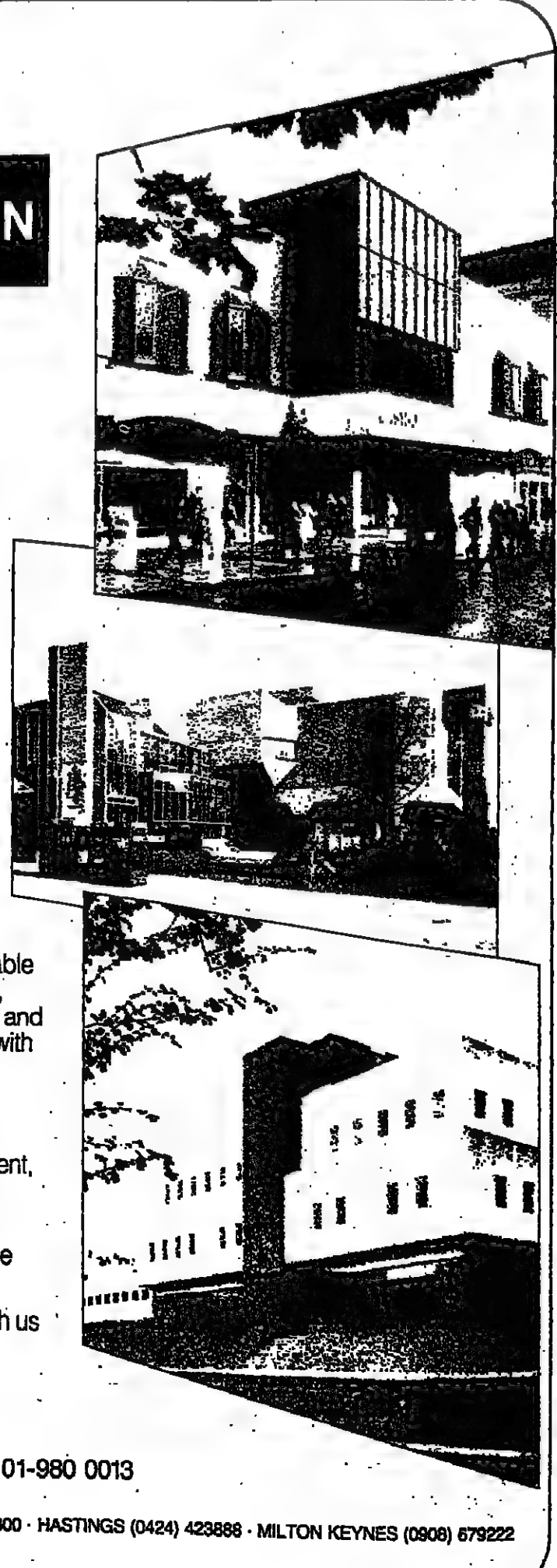
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The second City: pulling in rich rewards

While the City of London takes most of the credit for Britain's invisible earnings each year, the City of Westminster gets forgotten. But the second city is the home of many of the consultants and contractors responsible for huge overseas projects which reap very rich rewards indeed.

In 1973 UK construction work overseas was worth a total of £239m. By 1982, the last year for which complete figures are available, that had risen to £1,099m, made up from architects and surveyors, £98m; consulting engineers, £565m; and contractors and others, £436m.

We are still enjoying the benefits of an imperial and colonial past. In the relations we have with many countries, notably in the Middle and Far East, and Africa.

Last year three British architectural firms - YRM Partnership, Robert Matthews, Johnson-Marshall & Partners and the Architects Co-Partnership - received the Queen's Award for Export Achievement for the first time. Often they work either for a large British contractor or with other British consultants.

YRM Partnership's client for the £300m Sultan Qaboos University contract in Oman is

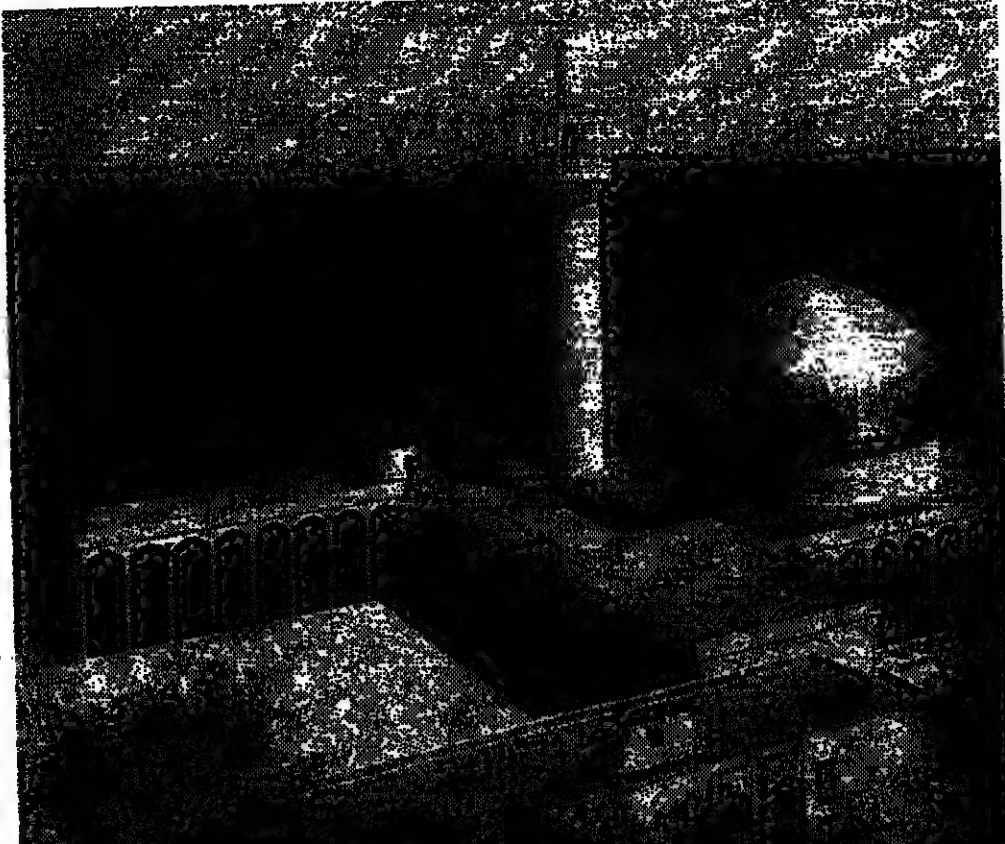
Cementation International and the Sultanate. Although the way the contract was awarded to Cementation has been the subject of some controversy, Barry Myers, its managing director, is convinced that it would have gone to a non-UK contractor if not to his own firm.

In Saudi Arabia, RMJM worked with the local firm of CAC in Jeddah as architects and engineers for a series of buildings for Saudi British Banks. The management contractor in each case was Laing Wimpey Alireza, with Haden International and Drake & Skell as mechanical and electrical sub-contractors. Haden International also worked on \$9m worth of residential compounds for the bank with RM Douglas as main contractor.

Bovis International, which won a Queen's Award for Export this year, was formed six years ago by combining the group's existing overseas construction and civil engineering division's activities.

It now works in nine countries and has nearly 50 projects in hand. Frank Lamb, managing director, expects to see major growth again this year. Last month it won a further £30m order from Saudi to build two airports; it will act as construction manager to a joint venture between two Saudi firms.

Balfour Beatty and French Kier are two other British



Gifts from Islamic communities throughout the world are contained in the London Central Mosque built on the edge of Regents Park, near to Lords cricket ground. The main contractor for the mosque was John Laing Construction

contractors with success stories to report overseas, while Teamwork Malaysia, an associated company of the Taylor Woodrow Group, announced a £10m contract to build a new office development in Malaysia only last week.

But it would be wrong to give the impression that working abroad is easy, either for our consultants or contractors. Two

of our biggest contractors are currently retrenching abroad, one after record losses on jobs that turned sour.

Two very influential reports which encouraged the construction industry to look abroad for work were *Design and Export*, by the Civil Engineering EDC, in 1978; and Sir Archie Lamb's report for the same organisation in 1982. Among the former's

recommendations were the need to reduce pre-construction periods, pool public and private sector resources to win contracts, and increase export activities by the public sector.

Lamb recommended changing the method of pitching for work and changing the financing of projects, as the packaging of this aspect is crucial to the rest. He had only one thing to

say as a conclusion: "We must be competitive."

Our rivals abroad tend to offer complete packages, integrating finance, contracting and manufacturing aspects normally handled by different firms. So the general view is that we need to combine our own services and go up-market, technically, in order to compete. Risk assessment has become a major consideration, before any project is given a second glance.

Competition is certainly becoming much tougher, says Major-General Peter Pellerin, secretary of the Association of Consulting Engineers. A poll in last month's issue of the American magazine *Engineering News-Record*, showed that Britain was still second only in the world to the US in its export of engineering expertise, and in the lead in some regions.

As for the types of projects most likely to be in demand, energy production, public health infrastructure, and the means of producing food locally seem certain to be in greatest demand. Some projects such as hydro-electric schemes, often combine several of these functions. Lending agencies are also becoming much more commercial in their approach and dictating what types of work should receive backing.

Perhaps the opportunities are greater for the building rather than the civil engineering contractor abroad over the next few years, and sometimes commissions can come out of the blue.

The Bernard Engle Partnership, for example, architects of the Brent Cross shopping centre, in north-west London, were recently commissioned by the Iceland retail chain, Hagkaup, to design a £15m shopping centre there.

IN PROFILE

Sir Peter Trench, CBE, chairman, National House-Building Council; director, Y J Lovell (Holdings) PLC.

Sir Peter Trench is an elder statesman of the construction industry. An economist, he went to London and Cambridge Universities before the war, in which he was a staff officer with Mounbatten and Montgomery. In 1946, he joined Bovis as a trainee, becoming its managing director in 1954 by the age of 36.

In 1959 he became director of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers for five years before joining the board of Lovell, where he succeeded to the chairmanship in 1972. He held this position until 1983, but remains a non-executive director of the principal Lovell board.

For services to the construction industry he was appointed a CBE in 1964 and was knighted in 1979. In 1982 he was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects for his outstanding contribution to the construction industry. He was chairman of the Secretary of State's Construction Housing Research Advisory Council for six years and was a member of the 1977 Housing Review Group.

At present chairman of the National House-Building Council and the Royal Society of Arts, he is also vice-president of the Building Centre. He is a director of Nationwide Building Society, Capital and Counties Property Co., Harnett Carver, LEF Transport, The Builder Group, Crenon Concrete, Middle East Building Services and RICS Journals.

He is married with two children, with homes in Ken-



sington and Surrey.

Sir Peter is the first main speaker at the Chartered Institute of Building's international conference, which opens tomorrow and where he will discuss the "state of the industry" in an international context. He says that there is not enough to keep the industry going in this country, which is keeping prices ridiculously low.

This has led to alternative forms of contract being introduced, and builders entering new markets, such as house-building (especially housing for the elderly) and private hospitals, even holding on to the equity after they are built. But only the larger companies can do this.

Middle-sized contractors are getting squeezed, by the large firms competing for middle-range contracts, and by small builders, often not paying value-added tax, and "cow-boy" elements taking work away at the other end of the scale.

Abroad, Britain has been eclipsed in the Middle East over the past four or five years, by foreign contractors employing cheap labour from the Far East. He sees China as the next major market, being very receptive to British companies, together with Indonesia and Malaysia.

All in together

The bond between builders throughout the world is strong and likely to become stronger with the planning of an international confederation of building institutes, led by the British Chartered Institute of Building. The proposed confederation would join together professional institutes who share roots and a passion for promoting management education and training for building.

Not surprisingly, many building institutes are to be found in Commonwealth and former Commonwealth countries, whose commercial and legal systems follow the British model. On the Continent, the idea of professional bodies examining and controlling their own members has never taken root, but the concept has been a highly successful, invisible, export for the British economy.

Today, professional institutes of building exist in Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore and South Africa. In addition, the British CIOB has offshoots in many countries where home-grown institutes may flourish.

One of the CIOB's overseas centres is in Hongkong, which, despite being larger than many

an independent institute, retains its close links with the headquarters in Ascot. The 1,500, mostly Chinese, members in Hongkong have a reputation for outperforming many of their western counterparts in examinations.

This concern for educational standards is shared by the Australian and New Zealand institutes with its 2,000-plus members. The Australian Institute of Building (AIB), forms an elite among builders.

On the over side of the Pacific, the Americans have watched the work of the CIOB with great interest. In 1971, they formed their own organization - the American Institute of Constructors - with one aim to introduce professionalism to building. Strongly influenced by the British model, they are introducing membership by examinations and a hierarchical membership structure. The AIC is also joining forces with the small band of CIOB members in Canada to create an organization spanning the North American continent.

KL

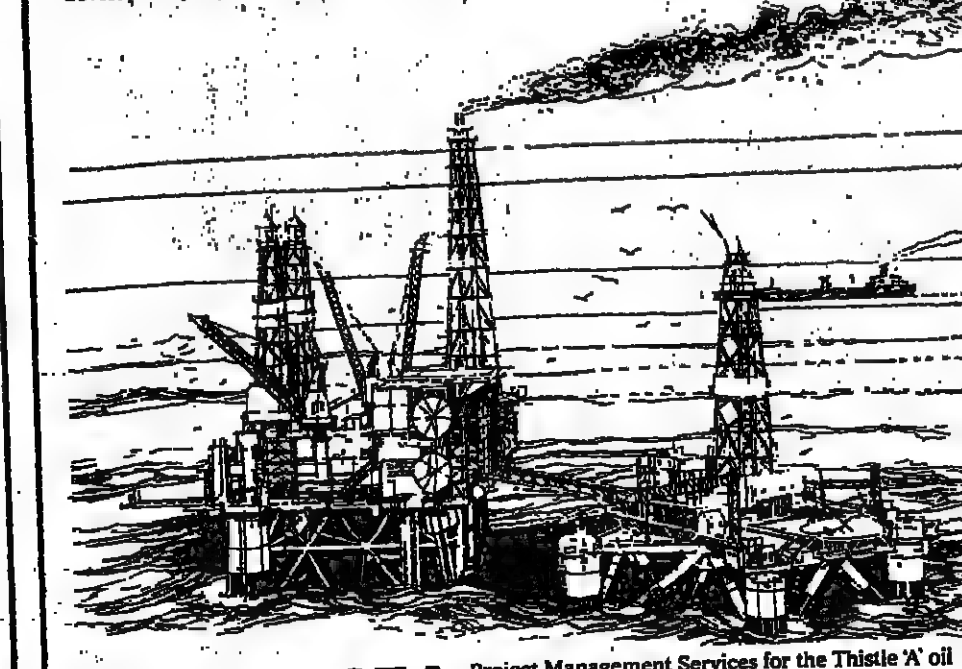
How Taylor Woodrow built a worldwide reputation



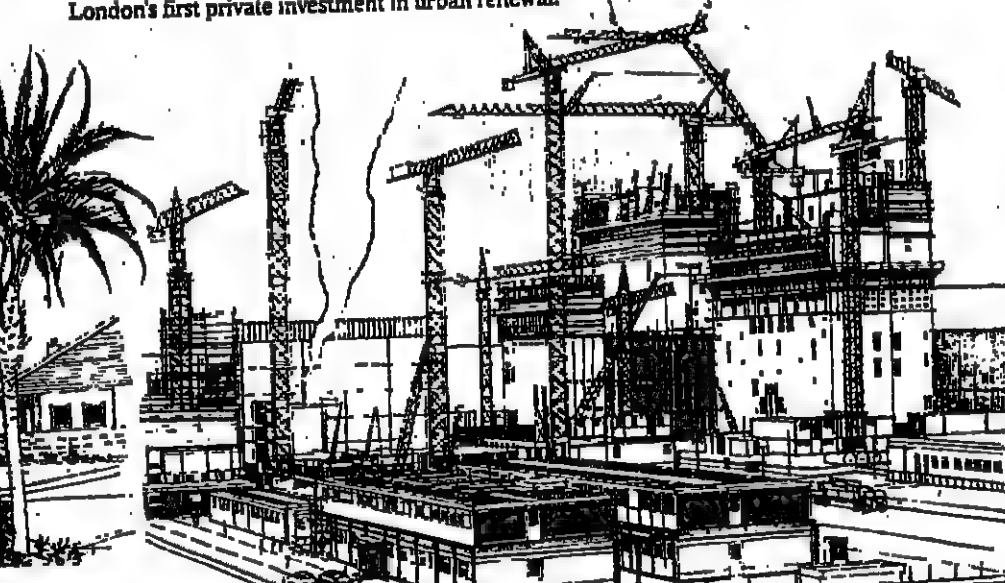
LONDON International House, part of the Taylor Woodrow development of the World Trade Centre at St. Katharine-by-the-Tower - London's first private investment in urban renewal.



BAHRAIN The Sheraton complex. Client: The Heirs of H.H. Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain. Architects: Hotel & shopping centre - Rader Mileto Associates. Office tower - Design & Management Services. Project Management: Universal Exchange Corporation.



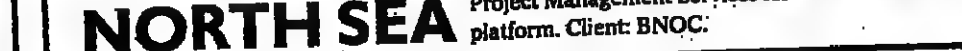
U.S.A. Windrush Bourne, a condominium project at The Meadows, Sarasota, Florida, a 4,000 home resort community being developed by Taylor Woodrow Homes Limited.



LANCASHIRE Main civil works for Heysham Phase 2 Nuclear Power Station for the Central Electricity Generating Board. Consulting Engineers: Nuclear Design Associates for National Nuclear Corporation. Quantity Surveyors: E C Harris and Partners.



MALAYSIA 156 bedroom hotel and shopping complex adjacent to Terminal 1 of Kuala Lumpur's Subang International Airport. Client: Kumpulan Firma Berhad. Architects: Akitek Kesatuan in association with Kume Architect-Engineer of Tokyo. Project Managers: Urus Bina. Consulting Engineers: Tahir Wong Sdn Bhd. Quantity Surveyors: Juru Ukur Bahan Malaysia.



NORTH SEA Project Management Services for the Thistle 'A' oil platform. Client: BNO.

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full potential, through free enterprise and teamwork. The success of this philosophy is amply demonstrated by the range and variety of projects in which Taylor Woodrow team workers are currently involved. How else could we have built a truly worldwide reputation?

If you would like to know more about our operations overseas, please contact Don Venus on 01-997 6641, and for the UK contact Ted Page on 01-575 4354.



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THE TIMES
Portfolio

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If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
1	MINING					
2	Minerals	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Malaysian Mining	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	BRACEN	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	CRA	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Geover Tin	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Northern	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	De Beers	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	West Rand	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Western Area	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	GUPING	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	CHL	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Shell	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Ultramar	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Ampol	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Premier	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	LASMO	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Br Petroleum	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	British	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Charterhall	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Coastal	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP					
23	Union	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	King & Shave	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Clive	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Brown Shipley	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Wagon	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Gerrard Nat	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Mercury	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Smith & Nephew	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	CIAT	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	INDUSTRIALS S-Z					
33	Willis (G) & Son	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Stetson	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Wood (Arthur)	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Stetson & Piu	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	TI	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	Thermal Synd	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	Sunshine	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Wadsworth	1.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984 High Low Stock Price Chg % Div Yield % P/E

1984	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 17. Dealings End, Sept 28. Contango Day, Oct 1. Settlement Day, Oct 8.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FINANCE AND LAND

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FOODS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

CINEMAS AND TV

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ELECTRICALS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

E-K

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

L-R

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

S-Z

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

OIL

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

INSURANCE

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

LEISURE

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

MINING

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SHIPPING

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SHOES AND LEATHER

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TEXTILES

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Div	Yield	%	P/E
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

THE TIMES

Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND

£2,000

Claims required for

+20 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53372

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%
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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Extraordinary danger facing Fraser chief

Lorhio managed to confine House of Fraser's share price to a rise of 2p yesterday. Such is the perverted logic which now surrounds the feud over House Fraser, that that must be counted a minor achievement of sorts, even by a 29.9 per cent shareholder on the day that Fraser announces a 73 per cent rise in half-year pretax profits to £7.4m, a doubling of earnings per share, and an interim dividend increased from 2.5p to 2.75p.

The reason that Lorhio, despite its substantial shareholding, is not interested in seeing the value of its investment increase is that it would like to increase that investment for the most modest possible outlay. Not to put too fine a point on it, Lorhio would like to acquire House of Fraser lock, stock and barrel. It is prevented from doing so by undertakings it has given to the Department of Trade and Industry. Meanwhile Lorhio is concerned to weight the Fraser board in its favour as far as possible.

That is why, on the day that Fraser published those sparkling figures, Lorhio chose to send out a circular urging other Fraser shareholders to vote against the re-election of Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and Mr Ernest Sharp, a non-executive director, at the annual meeting of Fraser on Friday week. Accompanying that message was a copy of a telex and a letter written last May by Mr Jack Hayward, a Fraser Shareholder.

The letter should bring a blush to the cheeks of Mr John Griffiths QC, who decided in an exhaustive report last month that Mr Hayward was not acting in concert with Lorhio. Maybe so, but Mr Hayward, a millionaire tax exile, is no ordinary Fraser investor. He seems to spend much of his time trying to fix up meetings between Professor Smith and Mr

Tiny Rowland, the chairman of Lorhio, directors of S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank advising Fraser.

"Anything to blur the figures" was Professor Smith's immediate reaction to the Lorhio circular. He is entitled to feel frustrated. Lorhio's prolonged siege is clearly hampering the development of House of Fraser. The board is confined to managing the existing assets. Any sizeable acquisition would be blocked by Lorhio. The assets of the company are in fact undergoing a radical transformation, even though the resulting short-term toll on trading profits provides comfort for Mr Rowland. Professor Smith claims that the latest half-year profit could have been as high as £10m, were it not for increased depreciation and interest charges, and the depressing effect of the miners' strike.

The depreciation and interest are the inevitable product of the group's £100m five-year refurbishment programme, of which one year and £15m has been spent. A large proportion has gone into Harrods, the Knightsbridge department store, which Lorhio wants to demerge from Fraser. Seige tactics demanded that Professor Smith actually play down Harrods' booming profits for fear of playing too much into Lorhio's hands. But, barring a repeat of last December's IRA atrocity outside the store, the inflow of tourists this year should take Harrods' profits well over £20m out of a total of some £45m, against £38m last year.

It would be extraordinary to vote off a chairman and one of his favoured colleagues in such circumstances. Yet that is in real danger of happening, particularly in Mr Sharp's case. Shareholders should make no mistake that every single vote counts on this occasion, and send in their proxies accordingly.

Accounting for mergers

Some of the mud stirred in the accountancy pool by the projected merger of Price Waterhouse and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, has settled, but none of the profession's seers yet claims to see the bottom. The wider issue is whether other leading firms will feel constrained to follow suit: there is no answer, but these are early days. The narrower issue is the rationale of the decision by two of the Big Eight to take the plunge together: here the patterns beneath the surface are already much clearer.

In the first place, the mergers not a merger: it is a takeover by Price Waterhouse, the stronger strain, of Deloitte. Rightly so, as experience shows that there are no successful mergers, only takeovers. The name of the new firm will be Price Waterhouse Deloitte (poor Haskins and sobered Sells fall off the end of the notepaper). Mr Jeffrey Boman, senior partner of Price Waterhouse, will be senior partner and chief executive of the British firm, and his opposite number in the United States, Mr Joseph Connor, will have the same elevated position there. Mr Michael Coates, a former PW senior partner, will be co-chairman and chief executive of the world firm, with Mr Charles Steel his co-chairman. Mr John Bullock, who has provided most of the drive at Deloitte in recent years and had been chosen to succeed Mr Eric Meade as senior partner next year, will be Mr Bowman's deputy Mr Meade's retirement. Mr Michael Cook (Deloitte) will be Mr J Connor's deputy.

Thus is the pecking order established, and will no doubt lead to its own problems when the two firms come to rationalizing their structures and disperse and dispose of people. Such decisions, never easy, will be made even more difficult in Britain by the knowledge that the pressures welding the PW and Deloitte together have come overwhelmingly from the United States. There the relatively low positions they

occupy in the premier league seems to have bred a genuine fear of relegation. In the non-audit areas, both have been shown to be weak and the thinking, which smacks a little of desperation, but is more understandable in the American context, seems to be that size will overcome weakness.

When the chips are down the American partnerships carry the greater weight. The crucial question for the concentration of the profession is whether other American firms will decide to follow the PW-Deloitte path and lean on their British counterparts. The answer may well turn on whether each suspects the others of being about to move. If the air is suddenly filled with inevitability, mergers with preferred partners may come with the speed of light for fear that they may be lost to others.

Taking the profession as a whole, assuming PW and Deloitte are one firm (only governmental interference is likely to stop them) there do not seem to be compelling reasons for more mergers at the top. All are big enough and sufficiently strong internationally to chart and follow successfully their own growth paths. There are undoubtedly some advantages in merging - lower unit costs after pruning, a greater spread of research expenditures for example - but the costs, in management time, disruption, disturbance of career patterns and expectations, and possibly loss of clients, have, so far, outweighed them.

It is worth noting that in Britain certainly it has been the firms putting the emphasis on their internal development as distinct from growth through mergers - Peat Marwick, Coopers, Arthur Andersen - which have made the greatest progress. Price Waterhouse should be added to that list. It is PW's decision to change its style and approach that has made most informed accounting eyebrows rise.

Pound closes at \$1.2320 low as dockers' vote halts slide

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The pound took a battering on the foreign exchange markets for the second day, running, falling sharply against the surging dollar and other leading currencies. But it bounced back firmly after being helped by news of the dockers' return to work and a turnaround in the dollar.

The pound ended the day in London down 95 points at \$1.2320, its lowest value since 1976, having fallen to 76.0 at noon, closed at 76.4 (1975=), showing a loss of 0.6.

However, the pound had slipped again by midday in New York as the dollar turned upwards.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, insisted that there was no crisis as he flew out of Britain for the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in Toronto and the International

Monetary Fund annual meeting in Washington later.

Mr Lawson refused to comment on whether the Government planned to take any action about the pound or whether the subject would be raised at the IMF meeting.

Official sources continued to stress that the dollar was still largely to blame. The Government takes the view that there is nothing it can do about this and appears to be hoping that the extraordinary rise in the dollar, which scaled new peaks yesterday, will eventually burn itself out.

At one stage the rush to buy dollars became a stampede as speculative money flowed into the US currency pushing it as high as DM3.12 against the Deutsche mark.

It closed in London at DM3.0935 for a gain of 1.8

plennings on the day as operators began to take profits.

Reports that a slowing in American economic growth may be revealed by third quarter gross national product figures due on Thursday also contributed to the afternoon turnaround in the dollar in London. But foreign exchange dealers are still unconvinced that the rise in the dollar has run its course.

There were signs of nervousness in financial markets yesterday morning when the pound temporarily touched a low against the dollar of \$1.2160. But sterling's revival helped to restore a more relaxed mood and government stocks recovered most of their early losses.

Money market interest rates ended the day a notch higher, but financial markets are increasingly convinced that the

Government will not push up interest rates to protect sterling, except as a last resort.

The Government believes that there are not domestic grounds for interest rates to rise and that the situation is very different from July when the City was worried about rapid growth in the money supply which has since come back within target.

The Government announced that public sector borrowing last month was £1.53 billion, bringing the total for the first five months of the financial year to £6.6 billion. This compares with a forecast public sector borrowing requirement of £7.25 billion for the whole of 1984-85. The Government still expects to hit its target and has stressed that the bulk of public borrowing will fall in the first half of the year. The City remains sceptical about the £7.25 billion

£19m sale by BOC

BOC Group has agreed to sell its 49 per cent stake in BOC-Nowco, a Canadian supplier of liquid nitrogen for the enhancement of oil recovery, for Can \$32.5m (£19.8m).

The buyer is the company's majority shareholder, Nowco Well Service of Calgary. The joint venture was founded in 1973. BOC said it would be making an unspecified profit on the sale which is expected to be completed by the end of this month. BOC-Nowco was profitable last year.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1109.6 up 2.1 (high: 1112.6; low: 1108.3)
FT Index: 858.0 down 1.0
FT All Share: 524.12 down 0.05
Bergains: 18.110
Dunsmuir USM Leaders Index: 102.72 up 0.48
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1128.13 down 8.94
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,559.15 down 77.21
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 974.82 up 11.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.2320 down 95pts
Index 76.4 down 0.6
DM 3.8125 down 0.0075
FF 11.7025 up 0.0035
Yen 303.45 down 2.005
Dollars 142.7 up 0.6
DM 3.0935 up 0.0180
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2250
Dollar DM 3.0977
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.58025
SDR £0.795476

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 10%
Finance houses base rate 11%
Discount market loans week fixed 10% - 10
3 month interbank 11% - 10%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11% - 11%
3 month DM 5% - 5%
3 month FF 1% - 1%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11%
Treasury bond 102% - 102%
102% ECGO Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV Average
reference rate for interest period
August 8 to September 4, 1984,
inclusive: 10.806 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$336.50 pm \$336.75
close \$337.75 - \$338.25 (\$274.75 - 275.25)
New York (latest): \$338.05
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$348 - \$349.50 (\$283 - 284)
Sovereigns (new):
\$79 - 80 (\$64.50 - 65.25)
*Excludes VAT

Bank deposits fall

By Alison Eadie

Deposits held by private banks on the Isle of Man fell by 20.1 per cent to £66.5m in the three months ending June 1984, indicating that public confidence has been knocked by the failures of many banks, including the crash of the Savings and Investment Bank in 1982.

A report ordered by the Isle of Man courts into SIB is expected to be critical of the island's regulatory authorities. Regulations have been tightened recently with new standard licence conditions and guidance notes for deposit

takers coming into force on July 1.

Overall confidence in the Isle of Man appears unshaken, however. Deposits held by all licensed banks rose by £300m, or 20.7 per cent, to £1.82 billion in the three months against the same period of 1983.

The greatest stride was made by foreign banks up 62.6 per cent at £296m. Foreign banks include the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and Habib Bank, but none of the big American banks. They now account for 16.3 per cent of total deposits.

Unit trust commission set to rise

By Richard Thomson

First-year commissions paid to people who sell unit trusts savings plans look set to rise to a maximum of 20 per cent. A special general meeting of Unit Trust Association members will vote to raise commissions paid to intermediaries from the present 3 per cent.

The new commission rate will mean that the first three months' contributions from a new investor will go to fees and management charges.

The move comes after the abolition of life assurance budget plan in the first Budget. The 13 per cent relief gave insurance schemes a strong competitive advantage over unit trusts, but now the tax position is equal many unit trust companies want to market their schemes more aggressively by paying extra to the brokers who sell them.

After three months of discussion, members of the association, who represent 97 per cent of all unit trusts funds under management, are expected to vote for the new maximum commission by a large majority.

However, the new rate is only a guide line and some companies may choose not to pay such high commissions.

In the meantime, net new investment in unit trusts staged a strong recovery during August after July's unusually poor performance. New investment rose 730 per cent to £153.4m as unit sales increased by £11m to £241m and repurchases fell by £24m to £35m from July's figures.

Panel to judge on Glanfield share purchase

By Our City Staff

The City Takeover Panel is to pass judgement shortly on allegations of serious breaches of the Takeover Code made by Glanfield Lawrence, the motor distributor, and its financial adviser, Samuel Montagu.

Two men stand accused: Mr Christopher Selmes for allegedly leading a concert party accounting for 43 per cent of Glanfield Lawrence's share capital; and Mr Jim Gregory, for later buying the 42 per cent.

He is better known as chairman of Queen's Park Rangers Football club.

The 42 per cent was sold to Mr Jim Gregory's Gregory Securities.

Takeover rules forbid the purchase of more than 15 per cent of a company initially from more than one seller.

One of the two accused had to be in the wrong and because of the difficulty of providing a concert party exists, the Panel is likely to find that it is Mr Gregory.

Governor warns City of wider checks

By William Kay, City Editor

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, gave a warning yesterday that every participant in the securities industry in future will be subject to continuous scrutiny to ensure that it has enough capital to handle the business it takes on its books.

He told the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers: "Functions such as broking and investment management are people-intensive rather than capital-intensive; but other functions such as block-trading and market-making, which many more firms are likely to perform in the future, require a much greater capital commitment."

"The securities regulator will need to ensure that the capital that is available to a firm is continuously sufficient in relation to the scale and nature of the business."

This type of regular monitoring is already carried out by the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England itself. Mr Leigh-Pemberton's words suggest that it will have to spread to other areas of the City.

As Mr Leigh-Pemberton was speaking, another piece of the City jigsaw fell into place. E B Savory Milin & Co, the stockbroker, is to sell 29.9 per cent of its equity to Dow Scandia Holdings, which is 52 per cent owned by the US-based Dow Chemical. The other 48 per cent is held equally by Sundsvallsbanken of Sweden, the Bank of Helsinki from Finland, and Norway's Forretningsbanken.

Dow Scandia established a presence in the City three years ago when it took over Arbutnot Latham, the merchant bank. When Stock Exchange rules permit, Dow will buy 100 per cent of Savory Milin.

A Getty is America's richest man

The richest American is Mr Gordon Getty, the oil magnate, who has a net worth estimated conservatively at \$4.1 billion (£3.3 billion) according to a survey by Forbes Magazine.

The magazine's annual survey of the 400 wealthiest Americans includes Yoko Ono, widow of the ex-beatle Mr John Lennon, and Mr Sam Moore Walton, a businessman from Bentonville, Arkansas, who is the second richest American with a net worth estimated at \$2.3 billion. Mr Walton built a small variety store into the Wal-Mart discount store chain.

There were 12 billionaires on this year's list of the wealthy elite, including 10 men and two women, both of whom are members of the Hunt oil family of Dallas, Texas.

The survey revealed that America's wealthiest individuals are concentrated in five states: New York, with 83 multimillionaires; California, 53; Texas, 52; Florida and Pennsylvania, 20 each.

Mr Michael Jackson, the pop star, failed to make this year's list but was mentioned as an "up-and-comer" with a fortune estimated at \$70m.

Mr Bob Hope, the comedian, was dropped from the list this year along with 44 others. The magazine said that Mr Hope's complaint that his net worth had been overestimated turned out to be true.

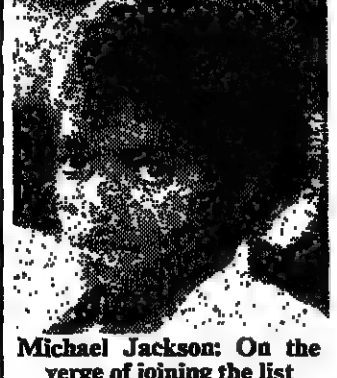
Mr Hope is just another multimillionaire, worth only \$115m - \$35m less than the poorest on the top 400 list, Forbes said.



Yoko Ono: A surprise in the richest list



Gordon Peter Getty: The wealthiest American of all



Michael Jackson: On the verge of joining the list

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chile cuts peso rate

CHILE has introduced measures including a 19 per cent devaluation of the official Chilean peso rate against the dollar to offset the impact of high interest rates and the low price of copper, the country's main export.

The official exchange rate is being cut from 93 to 115 pesos to the dollar.

ROWNTREE MACKINTOSH, the chocolate manufacturer which has been the subject of continuing bad rumours, has appointed Sir George Wilkins as a non-executive director. He is deputy chairman of Thorn EMI, a director of Courtauld's and a director of Hill Samuel.

CONSOLIDATED GOLD Fields, the British mining finance and industrial group, raised pretax profits by 17 per cent to £105m in the year to June 30. The dividend was maintained at 24.5p net for the fourth successive year.

FISONS, the pharmaceuticals to horticultural group, has increased pretax profits for the six months to June 30 to £22.6m up from £13.4m.

US cabinet discusses steel curbs

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan held an urgent cabinet meeting yesterday to review his options in responding to the domestic steel industry's election-year demand for unprecedented across-the-board quotas on imports from Europe and the Third World.

Mr Reagan must take a decision by the Saturday deadline on a demand by the domestic industry that imports be limited to 15 per cent of the American market, a level which would force sharp cutbacks in shipments from European producers and others.

The Reagan cabinet is sharply divided between the free-traders and the political pragmatists over the amount of trade protection to grant American producers, sources said.

Clyde profits double

Clyde Petroleum, the oil and gas exploration and production company which took over Wyth Farm, pushed pretax profits up from £2.03m to £4.87m during the half year to June 30.

The figures include a full six months' production from the North Sea Buchannan field and Wyth Farm from its acquisition in May.

But Clyde said that operating profits of £5.07m will not be maintained in the second half because the Buchannan field will be closed down in October.

No dividend is declared, but the shares gained 5p to 113p.

In brief

COMBINED TECHNOLOGY CORP: Six months to June 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 53,718 (51,998). Pretax loss 1611 (857). No tax (nil). Minority interest 539 (174). Loss attributable to Company 67 (loss 361). Loss per share 0.15p (0.5p).

THE BRITISH BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST has announced that 14 of the 18 branches which comprise the bank's network in Oman will be acquired by the Omani International Bank.

LONDON INVESTMENT TRUST has exchanged a conditional contract for the acquisition of Rialcor for an initial consideration of about \$1.2m, with up to a further \$2.5m payable dependent

upon the achievement of certain levels of profit in the years to March 31 1986 and 1987.

RAMCO OIL SERVICES and Carlson Reservoir Corporation have formed a UK joint venture called Ramco Carlson Pipeline Services to market specialized services to the pipeline industry.

DEBORAH SERVICES: Final 3.34p making 4.55p (4.23p) for the year to March 31. Turnover £32,545,249 (£28,503,931). Pretax profit £1,011,955 (£85,827). Tax £189,396 (credit £11,570). Earnings per share 10.55p (1.45p).

BREEDON & CLOUD HILL LIMEWORKS: Interim dividend 2.4p (same). Figs in £000. Turnover 2,078 (2,519). Profit before tax £1.1m. Pretax profits 663 (888), including profits from sale of non-trading assets, proceeds from which have been re-invested, 76 (145). Tax 274 (417). EPS 6.41p (7.76p).

G. W. SPARROW & SONS: Interim dividend 0.5p (0.5p). Final will depend on the results of the second half. Figs in £000. Turnover 14,978 (14,567) for first half of 1984. Pretax profit 262 (581).

TOR INVESTMENTS TRUST: Dividend 7.7p (7p) on income shares, making 11.55p (10.5p) and div. 1.15p (1.05p) on capital shares for half-year to July 31. Net revenue £543,568 (£512,415), after all charges, including tax of £273,394 (£288,109).

LYON & LYON: Interim 1.5 (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 3,418 (6,130) for half-year to June 30. Operating profit 176 (89). Investment income 31 (29). Bank

overdraft interest debits 47 (53). Pretax profit 160 (144).

G T JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST: Year to June 30. Total dividend 1.5p (1.1p, adjusted for scrip issue). Figures in £000. Income from investments 1,608 (1,171). Other income: Deposits and loan interest 70 (74). Profit on dealings in investment by a subsidiary 188 (304). Pretax profit 845 (563) after management expenses 397 (242) and interest payable 624 (745). Tax 438 (294). Earnings per ordinary share, diluted 1.56p (1.12p); undiluted, 1.56p (1.07p).

FAIREY HOLDINGS, the engineering sector of Pearson, is to purchase Ais Systems, which manufactures the Beaver range of standard automatic testing equipment which is used by the electronic manufacturing industry at home and abroad. The purchase price will be between £2.5m and £3.7m cash, depending on profits earned between 1984 and 1986.

PARAMBE: Contracts have been exchanged for the sale of Parambe's freehold property investment at Ashton-Under-Lyne for £115,000 cash, before expenses. The property was purchased in 1980 for £38,375 and is carried in the company's books at £82,500.

FORNISTEER: Business is expected to continue at a similar level of activity as last year, the directors say in their annual report.

HENRY ANSACHER HOLDINGS: Henry Ansacher Holdings has acquired the New York investment banking firm, Laidlaw Adams and Peck on undisclosed terms.

TV hits Barratt for £15m

Pretax profits of Barratt Developments slumped from £50.3m to £35.6m for the year to June 30 as house sales were hit by adverse publicity in two television programmes.

Sir Lawrie Barratt had expected his company to complete 18,000 sales in the United Kingdom during the year but only 13,700 were achieved, down from 16,300 in the previous year. Fears about the safety of timber-frame constructions and worries among first-time buyers about the resale of their homes, generated by the television programmes, were blamed for the downturn.

The proportion of first-time buyers of Barratt homes has fallen from 75 per cent to 68 per cent and this could fall to 60 per cent in the current year.

Average house prices in the United Kingdom increased by 8 per cent to £29,000 and this coupled with a good performance in the US contributed to an increase in turnover to £537.6m from £512.9m.

The company has maintained its final dividend on 5.31p to make a total of 7.6p for the year against 7.41p last time.

Heathrow to Plymouth 60 minutes from £58 return



Route	Frequency	Price from
Heathrow/Plymouth/Heathrow	Now 4 flights daily	£58 return
Heathrow/Newquay/Heathrow	Now 4 flights daily	£63 return
Gatwick/Plymouth/Gatwick	2 flights daily	£63 return
Gatwick/Birmingham/Gatwick	Now 5 flights daily	£42 single
Gatwick/Exeter/Gatwick	2 flights daily	£63 return

*Service operated with Twin Otter aircraft. *Mon to Fri from Oct 28th.

Talk to your Travel Agent or phone 01-549 6534

BRYMON

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ALFRED WALKER: Dividend 0.75p (same), as forecast for year to April 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 1,111 (919). Gross profit 164 (132). Operating loss 16 (28). Operating profit 11 (54). Interest payable 7 (3). Pretax profit 4 (51). Tax 6 (nil). Shares 70 down 8.

GARTON ENGINEERING: Six months to June 30. Interim 1p (same). (Figures in £000). Turnover 6,167 (5,462). Trading profit 354 (187). Interest payable 96 (109). Pretax profit 258 (78). Tax 73 (nil). Extraordinary dividend 83 (nil). Earnings per share 2.77p (2.12p). Shares unchanged at 65.

BREXTON ESTATE: Six months to June 30. Interim 2.1p. 10.5 per cent increase (Figures in £000). Income - net rental 1,178 (7,245) and other 13 (13). Interest on development properties 3,033 (2,653). Shares unchanged at 132.

MANSON FINANCE TRUST: Final 0.5 making 1p (same on old cap) for year to June 30. (Figures in £000). Group profit before tax 961 (775). Tax 323 (54). Minorities 5 (2). Shares 26 up 1.

GEORGE H. SCHOLES: Final 1p making 18p (17p) for year to June 30. (Figures in £000). Group turnover 2,429 (2,759). Pretax profit 4,716 (4,628). Tax 2,093 (2,130). Extraordinary credit 346 (nil). Shares 330 up 7.

PITTARD GROUP: Six months to June 30. Interim 1.45p (1.375p). (Figures in £000). Turnover 16,677 (11,726). Trading profit 1,423 (810). Pretax profit 1,037 (453). Interest on depreciation 137 (133) and interest 249 (224). Tax 223 (50). Earnings per share 10.06 (5p). Shares 93 up 7.

LYOYDS AND SCOTTISH: The offer by Lloyds Bank for all the shares of Lloyds and Scottish has become unconditional and is being extended until further notice. Lloyds Bank now owns or controls about 99.9 per cent of Lloyds and Scottish.

BR SYPHON INDUSTRIES: Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 1.25p (nil). (Figures in £000). Sales 11,834 (10,861). Operating profit 837 (394). Interest 214 (308). Pretax profit 613 (86). Tax 66 (nil). Shares 65 down 1.

PRITCHARD SERVICES GROUP: Twenty-six weeks to July 1. Interim 1.1p (1p). (Figures in £000). Turnover 192,138 (160,013). Operating profits 9,633 (8,430) after interest 2,349 (2,190). Tax 2,185 (2,449). Minorities 250 (273). Earnings per share 4.26p (3.54p). Shares 110 up 1p.

STAG FURNITURE HLDS: Twenty-six weeks to June 29. Interim dividend 1.75p (same). (Figures in £000). Sales 19,572 (18,960). Pretax profit 361 (1,035). Tax 155 (470). Earnings per ordinary share 1p (5.6p). Shares 70 down 6.

INTEREUROPE TECH-NOLOGY SERVICES: Final 3.29p making 4.83p (4.2p) for year to June 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 7,750 (6,124). Gross profit 3,188 (2,417). Interest receivable and - similar income 88 (68). Pretax profit 1,348 (873). Tax 579 (409). Extraordinary loss nil (84). Earnings per share 15.38p (9.58p).

BERNARD MATTHEWS: For 26 weeks to July 15. Interim 2.5p (same). (Figures in £000). Sales 44,702 (36,448). Pretax profit 1,021 (2,824). Interest 914 (521). Tax 204 (282). Earnings per share 5.11p (15.89p).

UNITED HUM MERCHANTS: A subsidiary within the Allied-Lyons Group, has purchased the old-established rum company, Robert Watson (Aberdeen). The purchase is a straight cash consideration.

INVERGORDON: Has acquired, for £232,500 cash, the whole share capital of Ronald Morrison and Co. proprietors of the Scotch whisky liqueur glava.

CHAMBERS AND FARGUS: Year to June 30. Turnover £18,94m (£10.5m). Pretax profit £96,000 (£102,000). Total dividend 1.0p (0.75p).

PHOENIX PROPERTIES AND FINANCE: Negotiations to acquire the 50 per cent of Kane Investments which Phoenix does not already own from Mr A. A. Loxton-Peacock and CIM Services (a company controlled by Mr C. Galliford) have been concluded. A conditional agreement has been signed. Mr Loxton-Peacock and Mr Galliford, who are directors of Phoenix, will resign from the board on completion of the acquisition. The agreement provides for the purchase at par by Phoenix of 10,000 shares of £1 each in Kane, payment being deferred until after Kane's only substantial asset, its interest in land at Swindon, has been realised.

BARR AND WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST: Seven months to July 31. Turnover £72m (£70m). Pretax profit £64,000 (£594,000). Since the last balance sheet (Dec 31, 1983), the group has cut its borrowings by more than £3m. The year's results should be similar to last time.

SWEDISH MATCH: Is to acquire a "significant shareholding" in Strömberg, a packaging company in Thailand. Strömberg has about 225 employees.

MEAT TRADE SUPPLIERS: Mr W. C. Anstis, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that he is unable to be too confident about profits for year to March, 1985 because of "artificially high meat prices on meat and sausage consumption". Turnover, in common with most other Smithfield operations, was down for the group's meat subsidiary for 1983 and this company made a loss.

PIRELLI: Year to June 30, compared with previous 14 months. Net profit 32,76m lire (£14m), against 21,11m lire. Dividend 50 lire on ordinary shares and 110 lire on savings shares (both unchanged). Pirelli reports a marked improvement in all three areas of activity, including tyres, cables and diversified rubber-based products. All companies in the tyre sector had broken even in first half of 1984, while in the cables sector the results over the same period were described as satisfying. But activities in the diversified products sector, heavily concentrated in Italy, were still making losses, despite a marked improvement in performance.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E	1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
142	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	142	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
143	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	143	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
144	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	144	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
145	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	145	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
146	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	146	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
147	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	147	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
148	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	148	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
149	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	149	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
150	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	150	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
151	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	151	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
152	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	152	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
153	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	153	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
154	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	154	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
155	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	155	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
156	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	156	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
157	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	157	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
158	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	158	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
159	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	159	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
160	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	160	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
161	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	161	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
162	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	162	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
163	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	163	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
164	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	164	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
165	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	165	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
166	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	166	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
167	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	167	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
168	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	168	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
169	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	169	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
170	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	170	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
171	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	171	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
172	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	172	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
173	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	173	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
174	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	174	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
175	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	175	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
176	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	176	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
177	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	177	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
178	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	178	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
179	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	179	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
180	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	180	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
181	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	181	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
182	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	182	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
183	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	183	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
184	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	184	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
185	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	185	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
186	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	186	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
187	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	187	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
188	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	188	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
189	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	189	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
190	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	190	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
191	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	191	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
192	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	192	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
193	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	193	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
194	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	194	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
195	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	195	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
196	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	196	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
197	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	197	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
198	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	198	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
199	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	199	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5
200	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5	200	118	105	Abnorbond	142	..	..	6.5

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Rewards of investing abroad

By Tim Congdon

Britain's capital gain on overseas portfolio investment, 1979-83

All figures in £m

	End 1979	End 1983	Change between 1979 and 1983
Private sector portfolio assets abroad	12,000	57,700	
Private sector portfolio liabilities abroad	4,530	9,800	
Net portfolio position	7,470	48,100	+40,630
Cumulative, 1980-83			
Net issues of overseas securities in UK			+1,446
UK purchases of overseas securities			+25,922
Overseas purchases of UK securities			-4,023
Net additions, due to transactions, to UK's overseas portfolio			+23,345
Net capital gain, and 1979 to end 1983			+17,285

Source: June 1984 Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin.

policy which he confesses to be "pretty ideological".

The loss can only be guessed, but it would probably have been several million pounds.

There is, however, something implausible in the notion that Mr Hattersley and his colleagues would have been prepared to accumulate £20 billion of US Treasury bills. It is more likely that the easier option would have been chosen and that North Sea revenues would have been used for higher public spending, particularly capital spending.

By this means the preservation of exchange controls might have resulted in more public sector investment. It is possible that this investment would not have been in unproductive coal pits where costs were three times receipts, or in steel plants unable to operate at more than a fraction of capacity, or in car plants suffering almost total stoppages from strikes every other week.

Labour's ideological approach would have lost Britain billions of pounds

It is possible, but it is not likely. The difference between the return to the nation from these "investments" and the £15 billion capital gains actually achieved on overseas assets is a matter of conjecture, but again it could well be negative by several billion pounds.

Confidence in Mr Hattersley's abilities as an investment manager is not increased by his promise that he would accompany exchange controls with "a new sort of planning". The idea apparently is that more power would be passed out to the regions, while "new models of socialist enterprise" build "on the initiative and creativity of working people".

If Mr Hattersley wants to learn more about the initiative and creativity of working people (including some very wealthy working people), he might pay a visit to bank managers in Florida and Switzerland. He would discover from them most countries already have exchange controls ministers committed to "new sorts of planning", rampant inflation and confiscatory governments, and that this combination causes massive capital flight to the relatively few countries (of which the USA and Switzerland are the main examples) where private property rights are fully respected.

This state of affairs is, of course, far from ideal. It ensures that many poor countries remain starved of capital, while a small number of rich countries are glutted with it. It also suggests that exchange controls - even when enforced by governments considerably more barbarous than anything yet imposed on Britain by the Labour Party - are always ineffective. To put the point most simply, there are aeroplanes and there are submarines.

In a world where few governments respect private property, and are expected to respect it into the indefinite future, enormous advantages accrue to the citizens of countries which do have such governments. It is not just money which flows towards these countries, but also talent and ideas.

Here lies much of the explanation for the eagerness of Sweden's high-tech entrepreneurs to seek listings on the United States stock exchanges in recent years. If they have a United States quote, they can obtain United States finance, they can acquire United States subsidiaries, and if they have United States subsidiaries, they can earn United States profits.

Once they have sizable United States profits, they can catch a plane from Stockholm to New York, and after a few years they stop being Swedish nationals (subject to exchange controls, 80 per cent income tax, "new sorts of planning" and the like) and become Americans.

Processes of this kind, which are largely responsible for the present reversal of the post-1945 shift of economic power from the United States to Europe, can be halted only if European governments show themselves prepared to make their economies more "American" - or, in effect, more capitalist - in character.

This is an unwelcome message for socialist politicians, but it is one which the French Government - after four years of enforcing ever tighter exchange controls, experimenting with different kinds of planning and indulging various other interventionist fantasies - seems finally to have understood.

To judge from his latest statements, it is a vain hope that Mr Hattersley would learn more quickly than his French counterparts if he were to become Chancellor.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

FISONS

Record first half underlines successful strategy

From the Interim Statement by Fisons Chairman & Chief Executive Mr J. S. Kerridge.

"The Group has continued its strong profit growth in the first half of 1984, with profit before tax at £22.6 million, 69% higher than in the same period last year. Sales are up 23% at £253 million. Earnings per share are up 53%, continuing the recent pattern of sustained growth.

This continued progress derives from the successful implementation of the Group's declared strategy, which is to operate in inherently attractive growth markets where Fisons can be internationally competitive. Within this framework, management has taken vigorous action to lower costs and increase marketing effectiveness. The organic growth thus achieved has been augmented, as the second aspect of the strategy, by well chosen acquisitions which are proving their worth.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hanson Trust shares head Americans' shopping list

By Derek Pain

Shares of Hanson Trust, the aggressive conglomerate famed for its spectacular bids and share-buying activities, were on the Americans' shopping list yesterday.

As sterling continues to wobble against the dollar the shares of big British groups are becoming more and more attractive to trans-Atlantic investors.

Hanson, which put on a US share presentation this year and has big American interests, had not featured strongly in the determined American share shopping, which is now such a

feature of the market. But all that changed yesterday afternoon.

American buyers, largely represented by James Capel, the broker, started chasing the shares. They had opened lower, drifting to 229p with the market. But as the Americans arrived they shot ahead to 241p, making them easily the best performing FT 30 index stock.

The group's last major takeover was the UDS stores group. As for its share stakes it has, if market rumours are to be believed, holdings in a vast array of important companies, ranging from the Imperial Group to Rowntree Macintosh. It has confirmed a share stake in Chubb, Powell Duffryn and Charter Consolidated.

One recent City suggestion is

that Hanson plans a Charter deal with Minorco, the holding company of the South African Oppenheimer group. Minorco has 35.7 per cent of Charter which will have 8 per cent of the new financial conglomerate — banking, broking and jobbing — being put together under the wing of Mercury Securities.

Groups with strong US connections — Grand Metropolitan to Imperial Chemical Industries — will clearly reap rich rewards from sterling's discomfort as their transatlantic earnings are translated into pounds.

But although American buyers were chasing Hanson they shied away from a number of other likely candidates, often because the shares moved ahead in anticipation of their arrival.

Even so Imperial Chemical Industries continued to feel the warmth of transatlantic attention. At one time the shares were 8p higher at 644p. But they closed unchanged.

Turner and Newall was another to come in for a US run, up 4p to 83p.

Although markets lacked a positive trend trading was active. The plight of sterling was largely ignored, so was the expected conclusion of the dock strike. There were vague worries about interest rates being forced higher but they were not

opening frodoed scintillation.

The FT-SE index was also marginally lower, down 0.6 points at 1,109.9 points. But one market index higher was the Datastream USM indicator. It rose 0.48 points to 102.72 points.

Government stocks, at one time nursing falls of up to 1/4 cut their losses to 1/4 by the close, helped by the PSBR figures.

London Investment Trust, the commodities to film financing group, gained 2p to 30 1/2 p as the company disclosed it was taking over a Chicago options dealer and stockbroker. The cost is just slightly more than £1m.

The Chicago firm, Risklor, has been hampered in the past by a shortage of capital which left it in a position to remedy.

It is intended to develop the company more into retail options brokerage and in the general field of American stockbroking. LIT's next move could be the by now familiar 29.9 per cent shareholding in a London stockbroker.

US4 newcomers Fergabrook and Paul Michael Leavitt made impressive debuts. Fergabrook in active trading reached 81p from its 74p placing level and PML closed at 33p against a 30p placing price.

Alshup Industries, after Monday's wild excitement,

investor from Panama, a company called Gulf Trust and Credit. With friends it has acquired 19.4 per cent. Gulf picked up most of its shareholding last week but acquired a further 355,000 shares yesterday. Mr Simon Watson, chief executive of Gulf's British operation, has joined the Yelverton board.

Brent Chemicals confirmed that it holds just under 5 per cent of W. Canning — and has done for about two months — but said it has no immediate plans to bid. The stake is a trade

TEMPUS

Barratt slips £15m after criticism on television

There is a great deal of sympathy for the dismal results from Barratt Developments which saw pretax profits slump from £50.3m to £35.6m. The problems, brought about by two adverse television programmes, are not of the company's making, but is the effect not the cause which must be considered.

Barratt was expected to sell 18,000 houses and ended up with only 13,700 completions. The cost of absorbing overheads on these reduced volumes is reflected in the profits fall.

To counter the bad publicity which has hit house sales the company has been forced to introduce several costly incentives. These bite further into margins and Barratt's difficulties are highlighted by one of these schemes. The mortgage reduction scheme costs the company 7 per cent of the house price which equates to the 6.8 per cent margins it earns in Britain.

There is little sign of any increase in volumes this year and another reduction in sales is more likely. Although the company is doing all it can to reduce overheads it is an uphill battle and profits could fall again in 1984/85.

With borrowing up by £100m to £128m the balance sheet is a big constraint in any progress. Much of this week was needed to finance the increase in work in progress and the number of unsold houses increased by 30 per cent to 1300.

There is little sign of any immediate improvement in Barratt's position. The maintained dividend which gives the shares an attractive 12 per cent yield is the only justification for looking at the shares and even so there are still sufficient uncertainties about

the short-term prospects to leave them alone for the time being.

Consolidated Gold Fields may have managed to raise pretax profits by 17 per cent to £105m, a creditable performance for any mining company under present conditions, but the City was not enchanted. The shares lost ground because the longer one looked at the figures the less comfortable the future seems.

For a start, this is the fourth successive year during which the dividend has been held at 34.5p net. Even now the cover of 1.6 times is at the bottom end of the range with which Cons Gold is comfortable.

The second point is that Cons Gold's management now almost talks of the company as though it were a defensive stock. Operating profits rose by 12 per cent to £154m, but for the first time the biggest single contributor was Arney Roadstone, whose overall share was £54.9m against £46.5m, largely because of a sharp improvement in the United States.

Higher costs and lower share dealing profits depressed the Gold Fields of South Africa contribution from £51.2m to £45.8m, and the dividends from Driefontein Consolidated and Kloof fell by £1.5m to £23.6m. Smaller returns from both Newmont and Reinson pushed overall mining profits down from £95.1m to £82.4m.

The growth came from the £27m turnaround in the industrial, where even Skytop Brewster is cash positive. If unsold, all this may create strength and diversified balance, geographically and commercially, but it does not generate growth. A 10 per cent addition to earnings per share of 38.2p is the likelihood for

the present year. If one fancies Gold, could be stake in Newmont, or GFSA if one fancies Gold, could be preferable.

Fisons

Any suspicion that Fisons would not be able to maintain the steady growth it has demonstrated over the last 18 months should at last be laid to rest. Yesterday's interim results, with pretax profits up from £13.4m to £22.6m, confirmed that the growth continues and gave no indication that it was slowing down.

Most exposed to a reduction in growth is the pharmaceutical division where the product range needs some expansion. However, Fisons is compensating for any deficiency here by expanding its international markets and both Japan and the US offer opportunities for improvement.

The company is still looking for a big acquisition in the pharmaceutical sector, probably in the US, which will boost the growth potential, but there is enough available from internal sources for Fisons not to be rushed.

The acquisition of Curtin Matheson Scientific in the US has added £4m to the pretax level, but the other scientific equipment companies also increased their profits by about 30 per cent.

The horticultural division is the smallest, with profits of £2.2m, but these increased by nearly 100 per cent.

Fisons' balance sheet is in good shape with gearing at about 11 per cent which allows it the flexibility to make a substantial acquisition. The shares were up 12p yesterday to 235p where they look very good value.

MONEY MARKETS

Rates firmed in the money markets as the pound took another battering in the foreign exchanges yesterday. But they came off the top in the afternoon, as some of the damage to sterling was undone.

Sterling certificates of deposit suffered more than interbank term deposits. The premium pricing that puts paper on lower rates than straight deposits was pared as nervous holders sold. The long end on term deposits firmed 1-8 while that on paper firmed 3-16.

The market was certainly regaining its nerve as the pound recovered lost ground in the latter half of the afternoon.

Overnight Bank Rate 10%	
Discounted Bill Loans	
Overnight: High 10%	Low 5
Week End: 10%-10	
Treasury Bills (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 10.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
Prime Bank Bill (10%) (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
3 months 10.10	3 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	6 months 10.10
Land Authority Bank	
3 months 11.10	2 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
3 months 10.10	3 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	6 months 10.10
Overnight Bill (10%) (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 10.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
Land Authority Market (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
3 months 10.10	3 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	6 months 10.10
Overnight Bank Rate 10%	
Overnight Bill (10%) (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 10.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
First Class Finance House (10%) (10%)	
3 months 11.10	2 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	1 month 10.10
3 months 10.10	3 months 11.10
6 months 10.10	6 months 10.10
Finance House Bank Rate 11%	

Football: From the students of Dublin to the masters of Liverpool, British and Irish clubs start the new term in Europe

Williams leads a canny blend

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Troops must be armed with more than ability if they are to conquer Europe. They need experience, and English clubs, whose recent success abroad is second to none, have it in abundance. Although Everton, and particularly Queen's Park Rangers, may have to find their own way around the continent during the new campaign two representatives already know what to expect.

Liverpool are so accustomed to visiting foreign territory that they would feel lost only if they failed to qualify for one of the three competitions next year. When they open their defence of the European Cup tonight in Poland, they will come of age, and their record of 21 consecutive seasons is unlikely ever to be surpassed.

Southampton, at home to Hamburg in the UEFA Cup are not so familiar with journeys overseas but their players collectively are probably the oldest of all the teams taking part today.

Mills will be 36 in January. Shilton celebrated his 35th birthday yesterday and by the end of December, Jordan will be 33 and Curtis, preferred up front to Moran, tonight, Armstrong and Holmes will all have turned 30.

Williams, Southampton's 26-year-old captain, is the important link not only in their midfield but also between two distinct age groups. If guidance is given by the wise heads the running power is supplied by fresh legs that have attracted Bobby Robson's interest.

Moran, though currently out of favour with Lawrie McMenemy, and Wallace are England under-21 internationals and Wright is a full cap.

The head of youth and experience may be complete but their fitness is not. Armstrong bruised a small toe on Saturday, did not finish the fixture and has not trained since. Agbolora was injured on Saturday night under mysterious circumstances, spent two days in hospital with facial injuries and is the more serious doubt of the two. Wright or Holmes will take over his role as sweeper, with Mark Whitlock likely to be drafted into central defence.

Nor is Southampton's confidence in one place. They stood at the bottom of the first division table - four days ago - and although their victory over Norwich-City was a source of welcome comfort they have yet to perform with conviction.

Yet, the West Germans are clearly underdog problems of their own. Arguments have taken place within the club between manager and players and in the first round of their domestic Cup they lost 2-0 to semi-professional opponents, Geislingen. That is equivalent to Southampton losing to, say, Weymouth, in the FA Cup.

Hamburg will prefer to look to more distant memories. In the last seven years they have reached five European finals, although they have won only two of them (the 1983 European Cup against Juventus and the 1977 Cup Winners' Cup against Anderlecht). They may conveniently forget that two of their conquerors were British (Nottingham Forest in the 1980 European Cup and Aberdeen in the 1983 Super Cup).

The West Germans therefore will not be short of experience themselves. Indeed two of their international representatives, Kaltz and Magath, appeared in all five finals, and their contribution to the unexpected victory over Juventus in Athens was both crucial and memorable. Kaltz, the most eager of overlapping full backs almost uprooted a Greek post with one effort and Magath, of majestic skill, scored the only goal.

Rowell suffers injury setback

Gary Rowell, who has been troubled by a knee injury since joining Norwich at a free transfer from Sunderland, was kept out of a reserve match at Ipswich yesterday. With Keith Bertschin injured, Rowell had hoped to make his first team debut for Norwich at home to Stoke tonight.



Back in favour: Mills (left), Southampton's regular full back, and Nicol, who returns to the Liverpool side

Vultures eye lions of Europe

By Clive Wake

Juventus are hovering like vultures over the European Cup, or to be more precise, above the limping British lion. Should Liverpool, the undisputed kings of the European jungle during the past eight years, perish today in forbidding Polish territory, then Juventus will swoop down on this competition almost unchallenged for some very rich pickings.

But Liverpool are not dead yet, even if they might feel uneasy about their match in Poland, the scene of their last European defeat two years ago against Widzew Lodz, whom Lech Poznan, Liverpool's enemy now, defeated on goal difference to complete a Polish league and cup double.

Liverpool, bereft of the ruthlessly creative Souness and the dashingly destructive Rush, are suffering through their League season and perform today without a playmaker. Molloy, their as yet ill-fitting replacement for Souness, is ineligible, so Nicol, who gained his first full Scottish cap in the goal only against Yugoslavia, is recalled. Lawrenson, troubled by a virus during Saturday's trip to Italy, hopes to draw with Sunderland in a fit, which means no nostalgic recall for Thompson.

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Joe Fagan, the manager, said: "We have been too much at the back and conceded too many goals so I can't disagree with people who say we have not been playing well." One of the most disturbing features of Liverpool's side this season has not so much been the absence of individuals but of character. They back-sid out of their game at Arsenal the other week and hardly bounced back on Saturday. Not the normal Liverpool reaction to a failure.

To the rest of Europe, Wojciech Laskarek, the manager of this season's unbeaten Lech side, has publicly asked his future on the demise of Liverpool. He said he would resign if Lech do not reach the last four of the European Cup. But for internal consumption he has been quoted in the Polish press as saying: "If we could have strengthened our team with two good players we could fight. As it is our chances are slim, although we will not give up."

Britain's other European title holders, Tottenham Hotspur, cannot expect Sporting Braga to lay down before them at the start of their UEFA Cup journey in Portugal. Tottenham have retired new pairs this season without

discernible loss of power, judging by their five-goal win over Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday. But Europe's course is tight and tricky and will place totally new stress on people like Allen and Chiedozie. Peter Shreeves, their manager is understandably confident.

Nottingham Forest will have unhappy memories of Belgian opposition when they meet Bruges at the City ground tonight in the UEFA Cup. Last season Forest were knocked out of the same competition in the semi-finals when Anderlecht won the second leg 3-0 to win 3-2 on aggregate.

It is the thought of tugging with similarly talented opponents that has given Clough the collywobles - although he would seem not to have given it too much head work. "We've had too much to worry about to start dwelling on the opposition," he said, with typical inconsistency.

If he is not devaluing the opposition or his own team, it is the competition, which any club - Forest included - would give his manager to compete in. "I've always said the League championship is more important than winning cups," said the man sitting on top of the league. Forest will be without

Hart, who has a hamstring injury and there is a doubt whether Clough will pick Christie.

The delights of cup football for the rest of us are illustrated gloriously by the Wrexham-Porto Cup Winners' Cup tie. The Welshmen have a 13-year-old, a 16-year-old and a 15-year-old - all products of the Government's youth training scheme - on call to face the side which ran Juventus so close in last season's final. The seniors, Parker, Gregory and Cunningham, face fitness checks.

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Less than a hundred miles from Tolka Park, the two most powerful clubs in Ireland, Linfield and Shamrock Rovers, meet in the League Cup. The Irish football will take second place, what matters most being that the occasion is not used by sectarian blackguards with a point to make. It tells us much about life in this country that Shamrock Rovers, normally the best supported club in the south, have travelled without their supporters who fear the consequences of entering the environs of Windsor Park.

Anticipation in the crowd is reaching the level of the great days of football, and with Celtic established, Shamrock Rovers, in nicely and Whiteside currently among the goals, electricity is to be found on the pitch as well. The Hungarian defence may be found wanting once again.

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Ron Atkinson was thus quietly pleased yesterday, when he announced an unchanged team for tonight's match. The only concern concerns Alan Brazil's fitness for a place on the substitutes' bench.

The pattern is coming together, Atkinson said, reflecting that the defence which had caused the odd doubt before the season officially began, now has the best record in the first division - "perhaps because we have been playing a lot of the game in the other team's half, which I still think is the best way to defend".

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Aberdeen's darkening fears are eased by Black's recovery

By Hugh Taylor

The managers of Aberdeen and Celtic, who start their European Campaign tonight against formidable opposition, breathed sighs of relief when they learned yesterday that players who had been laid low through injury would be ready for action.

Alex Ferguson, the Aberdeen manager, assured anxious supporters who were worried about what they considered the club's lack of firing power that the young forward Black would play against the East German champions, Dynamo Berlin, at Pittodrie in the European Cup.

With a seasoned attacker, Weir and McDougall ruled out because of injury and suspension, McGhee and Strachan, who scored eight of Aberdeen's goals in Europe last season, now elsewhere, and the loss of Black, fast rediscovering a lethal scoring touch, would have been incalculable. He has recovered from a hamstring pull and his presence tonight will hearten his colleagues who realize better than

most how much his sharpness and ability to take half chances mean to the team.

Aberdeen, however, will have to play with more understanding than they did against Rangers on Saturday if they are to secure the two-goal lead they require from the first leg if they are to have any chance of winning their tie against opponents who are their rivals in sheer consistency over the past few years, having won the East German league six times in a row.

David Hay, Celtic's manager, will not announce his side to meet Ghenet in Belgium in the Cup Winners' Cup tie until nearer the kick off, but he was happy to confirm that MacLeod would return to the side. Celtic's haul the return of the redoubtable midfielder player with delight for his forcing play has been sadly missed. Even with such an experienced European campaigner back in action, Celtic will be happy to return from Belgium with a draw. They have been dogged with

inconsistency and they will need more venomous shooting if they are to have any hopes of finding a comfortable result against a Ghenet side who combines typical Belgian resolution with fast-flowing attacks.

Dundee United, who meet Aik Stockholm in Sweden in a UEFA Cup tie, may lack their steady centre half Hegarty and Milne, a fleet-footed attacker through injury, but they need only a few glimpses of their form which took them to the semi-final of the European Cup last season to beat solid but unimaginative opponents.

The chances of Heart of Midlothian, who will have to play with more thrust and speed than they have shown so far in the premier division if they are to have any chance against French opponents Paris St. Germain in the UEFA Cup, are not improved by the news that their outstanding defender Roddy MacDonald, is suspended.

French international trains with Villa

Dider Six, the French international winger, trained with Aston Villa yesterday with a view to joining them. The 30-year-old, who is keen to leave his relegated French club Moulhouse, joined in with the Villa squad at their training ground before flying back to France. He is due to return next week to train with Villa again.

The Villa manager, Graham Turner, who has had talks with Six, said he was interested in the signing of the player, and will make a decision until after Six has 52 caps, has spent some time with them, Six, who originally seemed bound for Italy, has not kicked a ball in earnest this season, and is available at around £150,000. The winger still has three years left of his contract

with his Moulhouse, who bought him from the West German side, Stuttgart, last year.

The club are keen to recoup their money. Their new manager does not now want Six in his squad and the player's only option is to move abroad to the right club in his career.

Six speaks little English, but his business adviser, who accompanied him on the trip, said "He is very ambitious and wants to be the first French player in English football. He has been in contact with other European clubs, but decided to come to Villa."

Wrexham intend to sign Sanabria, City's 19-year-old reserve goalkeeper Chris Sander, today on a month's loan.

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also on page 28

SECRETARY to Managing Director

Bracknell, Berkshire

BMW (GB) Limited markets and distributes a prestigious range of cars, motorcycles, marine engines throughout the UK. The Company has an outstanding growth rate since its establishment in 1980 and plans further expansion in the coming years. We are now looking for an experienced Secretary to work for the Managing Director, at our modern UK Headquarters in Bracknell.

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1

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM**. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.
- 6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme preview at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; Mike Smith with the new Top Twenty between 7.55 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30; ante-natal advice between 8.30 and 9.00.
- 9.00 **Sharbat**. Magazine programme for Asian women. Among today's items is a report from Laila Ahmed on the activities and facilities available at Hounslow Multi-Cultural Centre 9.25 **Cee-fax**.
- 9.45 **Liberal Party Assembly 1984**. Coverage of the second day's debates which include civil liberties and the Third World 10.30 **Play School**, presented by Carol Chell (10.50) **Liberal Party Assembly 1984**. Further coverage of the proceedings at Bournemouth.
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cowdell. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon. 12.57 **Regional news** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One** includes Arthur Marshall discussing his recently published autobiography, *Life's Rich Pageant*. Lisa Kinsman continues with her Chinese cookery course 1.45 **King Rollo** (1.50) **Brice-a-Beac** (1.55) **Liberal Party Assembly 1984** includes a debate on economic strategy 3.48 **Regional news** (not London).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Chloe Ashcroft 4.10 **Mighty Mouse** (4.15) **Puzzle Trail**. Movie to the hidden treasure 4.30 **Battle of the Planets**. Animated science fiction adventures (Cee-fax titles) 4.55 **John Craven's Newsworld**. 5.05 **Billy Boy**. A boy in battle-scarred Belfast discovers a stranger in his hideaway (1.7).
- 5.25 **The Good Life**. Domestic comedy series with Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal as the married couple who go back to nature in deepest Surrey (1.55) **Weather**.
- 6.00 **News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell**.
- 6.30 **London Plus**.
- 6.55 **Points of View**. Barry Took with another clip into the BBC's postbag.
- 7.10 **Hotline**. Live phone-in show presented by Chris Tarrant and Mary Parkinson. Viewers are encouraged to treat the programme as a tele-visual personal column.
- 8.00 **No Place Like Home**. Domestic comedy with this week, everybody in the family forming different opinions as to why dad has been spending 'a lot of time' working late at the office.
- 8.30 **Cold War**. Episode two of the spy thriller starring Michael Denison (Cee-fax titles).
- 9.00 **News with John Humphrys**.
- 9.25 **The Black Adder**. Starring Rowan Atkinson as the scheming prince, this week plotting to get his coronation the post of Archbishop of Canterbury (1.7).
- 10.00 **Film: The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing** (1973) starring Burt Reynolds and Sarah Miles. An off-beat love story about a woman running away from a boring marriage who is unwittingly involved in a train hold-up and taken hostage by the robber. Directed by Richard C. Sarafian.
- 12.00 **News headlines and weather**.

tv-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anna Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.30 and 7.30; guest, Robert Powell, from 8.45; exercises at 8.45 and 8.50; Jonathan Dimbleby's and Bel Moore's star romance at 8.15; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.34; Reg Varney at 8.45; Roddy Llewellyn's gardening advice at 8.06.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.25 **Thames news headlines** 6.30 **For Schools: Craft, design and technology** 8.47 **Science** 10.04 **Empirical formulae by microanalysis** 10.31 **An introduction to modern literature** 10.45 **Contrasting the business district of Manchester with that of Los Angeles** 11.10 **Training to be a freeman** 11.22 **Part one of Swallows and Amazons** 11.38 **How we used to live**.
- 12.00 **Rod, Jane and Freddy in Toyland** (1.12.10) **Our Backyard**. A picnic is threatened by a rain cloud 12.30 **The Saturday Show**.
- 1.00 **News**. 1.20 **Thames news**. 1.30 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama set in rural Devonshire 2.30 **Parmhouse**. Kitchen's Grace Mulligan introduces the 20th edition of the programme. With guests Mary Berry and Marguerite Paton.
- 3.00 **Take the High Road**. Drama in the Scottish Highlands. 3.25 **Thames news**. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.
- 4.00 **Rod, Jane and Freddy**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Tower**. 4.30 **Scout**, with Matthew Corbett and the Royal Artillery Motorcycle Team (1.44) **Coronet Time**. Little Red Riding Hood (1.45) **Hold Tight** with guests, Chas 'n' Dave. 5.15 **Blockbusters**. News. 6.00 **Thames news**.
- 6.25 **Help! Vix Taylor** goes with news of headline, a new pilot telephone information service set up by the College of Health to act as a back-up to doctors. 6.35 **Crossroads**. Adam Carbone humiliates Iris Scott.
- 7.00 **Where There's a Life**. Miriam Shepard reports from the United States on the questions raised by the death from a heart attack of Jim Fock, the man who inspired millions to take up jogging.
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**.
- 8.00 **Benny Hill**. Comic sketches and songs (1.7).
- 8.30 **Fresh Fields**. Domestic comedy series starring Anton Rodgers and Julia McKenzie. Hester is the driving force behind a church bazaar and concert. She tries to enlist husband William's help, but he prefers to go fishing. (Cee-fax titles page 170).
- 9.00 **Minder: A Number of Old Wives' Tales**. Arthur gives the bride away and Terry is the best man at a registry office wedding that makes front-page news (Cee-fax titles, page 170).
- 10.00 **News**.
- 10.30 **Midweek Sport Special** presented by Brian Moore and Steve Rider. The first of a new series begins with European football and international football. There are highlights from the post of Archbishop of Canterbury (1.7).
- 10.50 **Film: The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing** (1973) starring Burt Reynolds and Sarah Miles. An off-beat love story about a woman running away from a boring marriage who is unwittingly involved in a train hold-up and taken hostage by the robber. Directed by Richard C. Sarafian.
- 12.00 **Night Thoughts** from Moshe Davis.



Don Cupitt: The Sea of Faith (BBC 2, 9.30pm)

THE SEA OF FAITH (BBC2, 9.30pm). Don Cupitt's exploration of the concept of faith in the philosophy, tonight, the Deen of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in Darwin's study, on Freud's consulting couch and in Jung's lake-side tower. These are just three of the stop-offs along a road that for Mr Cupitt, shows how far homo sapiens have travelled since leaving behind what he calls the allegory of Genesis. Modern science, he says, displaying his distiller's gift for reducing matters of great complexity to the simple, image, makes Adam and Eve seem like a just-so story. The literal view of Christianity is only implicitly one of Mr Cupitt's concerns in this, the second film in his six-part series. The apotheosis of his argument is to be found in a television interview in which Jung, asked about his belief

CHOICE

in God, replies: "I don't need to believe; I know." Religious naturalism was what Jung preached, and Mr Cupitt is such a sympathetic listener that he dares to say, as he brings down the curtain on tonight's film, that he suspects we are going to have to follow the Swiss psychologist in the end. Mr Cupitt certainly makes it look a more attractive and optimistic proposition than following Freud.

BOOKMARK (BBC2, 8.10pm) returns with a brand-new regular, the literary biographer Ian Hamilton, and three first-time features about Martin Amis's new book *Money*, a *Suicide Note*; Dr Janet Morgan's new biography of Agatha Christie (extracts are appearing in *The*

Times; and Peter Ackroyd's new biography of T. S. Eliot. Mr Hamilton is a "find" at rights a books man who is not bookish; a presenter who is strong enough not merely to "front" a programme but to climb inside the works and report interestingly on what it is that makes the literary mind tick.

GAMBLE OF A LIFETIME? (Radio 4, 7.20pm) is an appealing account of a schoolboy's unquenchable thirst for the quick big win: a 15-year-old who would like to see as much as £5,000 on the roulette table on a single night, and rob his family of their jewelry to get the stake money. It is also a searing indictment of the stupidity of over-indulgent parents who fail (or choose) to ignore the abundant warning signals.

Peter Davalle

CHANNEL 4

- 6.05 **Open University: Man of Mode** by George Athridge. 6.55 **Chemistry: Too Much of a Good Thing**. 7.20 **Arts: List and Nature**. 7.45 **Geologist on the Moon**. Ends at 8.10.
- 9.00 **Cee-fax**.
- 9.10 **Daytime on Two: Technical studies**. 9.38 **Science: Green**. 10.30 **Arts: List and Nature**. 10.38 **Trigonometry**. 11.00 **Adventures of Shirley Sharpey**. 11.17 **Songwriting**. 11.38 **Censorship and "Big Brother"**.
- 12.05 **Russian language**. 12.30 **How to be an impressionist**. 12.55 **The Youth Training Scheme in action**. 1.21 **France**. 1.28 **How a road accident could have been avoided**. 2.00 **With Captain Cook on the Endeavour**. 2.18 **Evidence of the Ice Age**. 2.40 **The story of Muhammad**. 3.00 **The Waterloo**. Coverage of the final stages of the 1984 Great Whitley Waterloo Bowling Handicap.
- 5.00 **Images of Ourselves**. An Open University production in which five disabled women discuss the politics of disability (1.7).
- 5.30 **The Pennine Challenge**. The second of four programmes which follow the fortunes of four young people as they walk the 270 miles long Pennine Way.
- 6.00 **Can Jump Puddles**. Part three of the Australian-made drama series based on the autobiography of Alan Marshall (1.7).
- 6.45 **Cartoon Time**. 6.55 **Hold Lloyd**. Clips from two of the comedian's films - *Dr Jack*, released in 1922, in which he plays a quack doctor and *Never Touched Me* (1919) in which he has trouble with his flighty girlfriend's admirers.
- 7.20 **The Rise and Fall of King Colton**. Anthony Burton's history of cotton continues with the story of the American cotton plantations.
- 7.50 **Collecting Now - Know Your Picture**. In the last programme of his series John Fitzmaurice will examine picture frames.
- 8.10 **Bookmark**. The first programme in a monthly series about the world of literature. (See Choice).
- 8.30 **Sing Country**. Highlights of the Silt-Cut Festival including performances by Jeanie C. Riley and Glen Campbell.
- 9.30 **The Sea of Faith**. Don Cupitt, Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, with the second programme of his series examining the state of religion today (Cee-fax titles) (See Choice).
- 10.30 **The Waterloo**. Highlights of today's final of the crown green bowling competition.
- 11.00 **Newsnight**.
- 11.50 **Open University**. The Aesthetic Club. 12.15 **Volunteers** aid Social Management. Ends at 12.45.

- 10.00 **Liberal Assembly '84**. Llew Gardiner and Brian Shalloo report from Bournemouth. Ends at 12.45.
- 2.00 **Liberal Assembly '84**. Coverage of the afternoon's debates.
- 5.30 **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**. 5.50 **News**. 6.00 **News**. 6.10 **News**. 6.20 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **News**. 6.50 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **News**. 7.20 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **News**. 7.50 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **News**. 8.20 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **News**. 8.50 **News**. 9.00 **News**. 9.10 **News**. 9.20 **News**. 9.30 **News**. 9.40 **News**. 9.50 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.10 **News**. 10.20 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **News**. 10.50 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **News**. 11.20 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **News**. 11.50 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **News**. 12.20 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 12.40 **News**. 12.50 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.10 **News**. 1.20 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 1.40 **News**. 1.50 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.10 **News**. 2.20 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 2.40 **News**. 2.50 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.10 **News**. 3.20 **News**. 3.30 **News**. 3.40 **News**. 3.50 **News**. 4.00 **News**. 4.10 **News**. 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Bitov told friends he had cancer and disappeared

By Richard Dowden

On August 23, nearly a week after he disappeared from London, Oleg Bitov, the Russian defector who returned to the Soviet Union, telephoned friends in the United States and told them he had cancer.

Bitov told the friends, fellow Russian exiles, that he was going into hospital immediately for diagnostic tests and treatment. The friends assumed he was telephoning from Britain.

Bitov also told another friend, Antonov Gladilin of Radio Liberty, that he was seeing a doctor. Gladilin came to London from Paris on August 16 and dined with Bitov that evening. He told him he was seeing a doctor the next day but did not disclose what about.

Bitov had offered to take Gladilin on a tour of Britain in his new £5,000 Toyota Terac but although they were old friends from Moscow days Bitov did not give him his telephone number. Gladilin did not see him again.

Bitov, the defector who went back to the cold, was never really happy in the West. He had a well equipped house in Cheam, £40,000 in the bank, a new Toyota, was having treatment for new false teeth and was contemplating spending £3,000 on a new word processor but he never felt settled.

Friends and associates in Britain and America say he continued to worry about his daughter, Xenia, aged 15, whom he once described as "the dearest creature in all the world". The pseudonym he used as a translator of science fiction books in Russian was based on her name.

Mr Peter Redcliffe, a Soviet specialist at the London School of Economics, said: "He was rather tense, all the time, working hard to give the impression that he was at home in the West."

Mr Bitov first contacted British agents in Venice in September last year. He was there ostensibly to cover the Venice Film Festival but one report claims he was there on KGB business. Mr Bitov told Mr John Barron of the *Reader's Digest* that he was to have come to Italy earlier with a KGB agent who works for the *Liternyaya Gazeta* to write about the attempted assassination of the Pope.

He was brought to Britain, possibly as he claims under a passport issued in the name of David Locke, and he was



Sheen Court, Richmond, Surrey, one of the "safe houses" named by Mr Bitov.



Oleg Bitov: Wanted to see his daughter again.



Safe house: 34 Redcliffe Square, Earl's Court, London.

Cool but strained at press conference

Continued from page 1

doctor called Giuseppe and an Italian nurse, and being taken to a "villa somewhere up in the mountains". He claimed he was injected with psychotropic drugs before being put on a London-bound Alitalia jet at Pisa with a forged British passport in the name of "David Locke".

By mid-September, Mr Bitov said, he was being held at the Old Fairbridge Hotel in East Crinestead, still on drugs. Mr Bitov claimed he was taken two or three times a week to an Army barracks near Brighton for interrogation.

When the *Sherlock Holmes* of British Intelligence found out he was not a KGB agent they took on a new role as political scientists, radio producers and publishers' go-betweens, offering him well-paid jobs as a "mud-slinging anti-Soviet".

Seven weeks later Mr Bitov made his statement, which he now says was a fabrication by British Intelligence. Blackmail, medical innovations for inhuman purposes, battery and physical violence had been used to force him to comply, as well as special techniques for fabricating voice and text.

Mr Bitov said senior British intelligence officers had proudly told him they were waging an undeclared war against the Soviet Union, and that for them the only law was the total absence of laws.

Having been taken prisoner, Mr Bitov said, he could have resisted openly or gone over to the other camp, but instead had taken the difficult third option of gaining time to lull his captors' vigilance, while trying to let close relatives at home know that he did not intend to betray Russia completely.

In his statement last December and in articles and radio interviews, Mr Bitov said repeatedly while in the West that he had felt stifled in the Soviet Union, that he was unable to give a true picture of Western culture in the *Literary Gazette* because of ideological restrictions and that Soviet censorship was severe.

Asked by *The Times* if he now renounced these views Mr Bitov said he had wanted to make "milder" statements in the West, but editors had insisted on crude anti-soviet material. There are those who say there is no censorship in the West, but that is a lie.

Affair 'will not harm UK'

By Peter Hennessy

The Whitehall assessment of the Bitov defection is that it is a tiresome irritant but not damaging to British interests or security. It is more unlikely to preoccupy Ministers with responsibility for intelligence.

But one experienced figure did acknowledge that any defector, however low grade,

who went back to Moscow was "bad publicity" as it may discourage potentially valuable people in the East from coming over.

Whitehall reckoned Mr Bitov had returned to the Soviet Union as soon as he was reported missing. The "working assumption", in the absence of hard evidence, is that he became depressed and did a

deal with the Soviet Embassy in London.

Bitov's statement yesterday included some "interesting snippets" that the KGB would already have known, according to one source. But it was judged to be designed for domestic propaganda purposes to undo some of the damage his original defection caused.

Cash in advance for hotel

By Staff Reporters

Ye Olde Fairbridge Hotel is an array of turn-of-the-century mock-Tudor buildings skirting the main London road as it enters the leafy stockbroker belt of East Grinstead.

The register shows that a Mr David Locke - the name Mr Bitov claimed he was given in his forged British passport - checked in on September 10, 1983, and left on September 12.

Mr Brian Constable, the hotel's general manager, said yesterday that Mr Locke arrived without a reservation, and had paid cash in advance for his two-day stay. He gave a private address in London, SW7, which Mr Constable would not divulge. It was not one of those revealed in Moscow by Mr Bitov.

"For all I know Mr Locke was a bona fide guest, and I must respect the confidentiality of my customers," Mr Constable said, blocking out the address before allowing *The Times* to photograph Mr Locke's registration card. Neither he nor any of his staff could recall Mr Locke.

118 Sheen Court is a two-bedroomed second-floor flat at the quiet end of a 1930s estate off Upper Richmond Road West, in suburban Sheen.

Mrs Diana Freddie, the estate secretary, said it had been tenanted since February 15 by Mr James Westoll, one of the names given by Mr Bitov in Moscow. "It is amazing to think of it being used as a safe house. I certainly had not seen

anybody with snow on their boots or Russian hats."

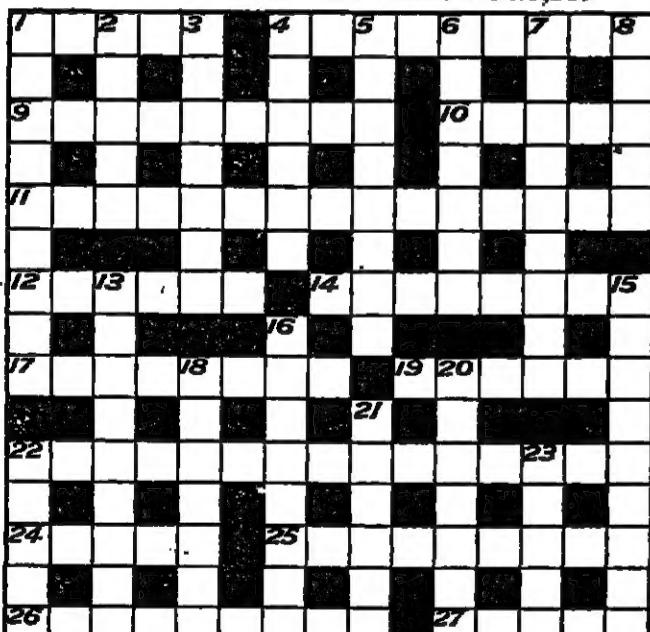
Flat 4, 34 Redcliffe Square, is a handsome five-year-old conversion in an imposing Edwardian town house in what was once a popular rooming area in Earl's Court. Neighbours had no recollection of seeing anyone at Flat 4.

On the local electoral roll the occupant is listed as Rose Prince, the name Mr Bitov gave in Moscow as that of a clerk with British Intelligence.

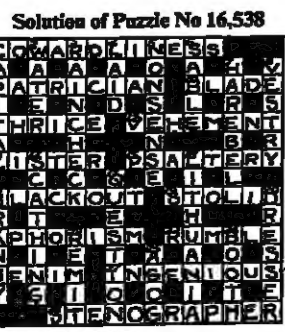
A spokesman for Scotts, of Putney, the managing agents for the property, said: "I think it is highly unlikely that it could have been used as a safe house, or to hold anyone prisoner, but flats can always be sub-let and we do not always know about it."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,539



- ACROSS
- 1 Died with Lawrence? Rubbish! (5).
 - 4 Exemplary chap, he, at conveying information (9).
 - 10 In Aeschylus, a Tyrian deity (5).
 - 11 Noised concomitant to the progress of several companies (10,5).
 - 12 ...no sadness of farewell When I — (Tennyson) (6).
 - 14 See principal touch down at Portland Bill, say (8).
 - 17 Records attempt at making a wall-covering (8).
 - 19 Commit robbery and run away from the church (6).
 - 22 Its potential victim dreaded a haircut (5,3,8).
 - 24 Severe treatment finishes off the son of Gargantua (5).
 - 25 In which one is considered alone (9).
 - 26 Rent in USA makes us gloomy (9).
 - 27 2 back-surest compositions (5).
- DOWN
- 1 Putting off, in Paris, of agitation (9).
 - 2 No footballer is in debt (5).
 - 3 Perhaps Machiavelli's school raised corps of engineers (7).
 - 4 Miss Page is upset by this colour (6).
 - 5 Webster's lightweight material? (8).



New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Daisy Ashford: Her Life, by R.M. McCombes (Chatto & Windus, £8.95).

Life's Rich Pageant, by Arthur Marshall (Harmish Hamilton, £8.95).

My Uncle George, The respectful recollections of a backslider in a Highland manse, by Alastair Phillips (Richard Drew, Glasgow, £9.50).

Recollections, Mainly of Artists and Writers, by Geoffrey Grigson (Chatto & Windus, £12.50).

The National Trust Book of Ruins, by Brian Bailey (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95).

The Oxford Companion to Chess, by David Hooper & Kenneth Whyld (Oxford, £15).

The Language of the Garden, A Personal Anthology, by Anne Scott-James (Viking, £8.95).

The New Englishes, by J. Platt, H. Weber, and M.L. Ho (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £12.50, paperback, £5.95).

The Rise and Decline of Western Liberalism, by Anthony Arblaster (Blackwell, £19.50).

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne opens The Princess Shopping Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2.45, and later, attends a gala charity show at Selfridges, London, 7.30.

The Duchess of Kent attends a concert by the London Mozart Players at the Royal Festival Hall, 7.20.

New exhibitions

Paintings by Jim Andrew: The Ginnel Gallery, Lloyd Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Thurs 9 to 8; (ends Oct 26).

Music

Organ recital by David Morgan: Southwell Parish Church, Suffolk, 8.15.

Organ recital by Ian Tracey: Church of the Holy Trinity, Mostyn Street, Llandudno, 7.45.

Concert of Music by Mozart: Douglas Smith and Denis Matthews and the Cheltenham Sunday Players, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, 7.30.

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia: Newcastle City Hall, 7.45.

Recital by the English Reed Trio: Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 8.

Concert by the Goldberg Ensemble: Marlow Parish Church, Bucks, 8.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln 1650-63, Sheffield (7), 1587; William Kirby, entomologist, Witleham, Suffolk, 1759; George Cadbury, Quaker, chocolate manufacturer and social reformer, Birmingham, 1839; Arthur Rackham, illustrator, London, 1867.

Deaths: Meyer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the banking house, Frankfurt am Main, 1812; James Abraham Garfield, 20th president of the USA, March 4-Sept 19, 1881, Elberon, New Jersey, 1881; Thomas Barnardo, social reformer, Salford, Surrey, 1905;

Roads

Middlesex: A166 Contrail in operation on Bagen on Trent bypass. M1: Control system in the vicinity of junction 15, Bucks. A5 Contrail S E of Tamworth.

Wales and West: A166 Roadworks at Lough Hill, Chesham.

South: A166 Roadworks at Greenhead, Northampton.

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Crop pest warning

The Government has issued a warning to horticulturists and greenhouse growers to watch out for the American Serpentine Leaf Miner, a pest which has been found in Britain on chrysanthemum and gerbera crops. It can devastate a wide range of crops grown under glass and autumn is the highest risk period. Greenhouse owners are asked to be especially vigilant now and during the coming months.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.54	1.54
Canada \$	1.38	1.38
Denmark kr	16.00	16.00
France F	166.20	166.20
Germany DM	1.93	1.93
Greece Dr	166.20	166.20
Italy L	1.36	1.36
Japan Yen	166.20	166.20
Netherlands Gld	1.66	1.66
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.20	166.20
Sweden Kr	1.36	1.36
Switzerland Fr	1.75	1.75
Yugoslavia Dnr	166.20	166.20

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure over the SE will clear the country during the morning leaving Britain in a W airstream.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Rain in places at first, sunnier intervals developing; wind W light, max temp 16 (15). Central E, central N, NE England, E, W Midlands: Dry, sunny intervals; wind W light, max temp 16 (15).

SW England, S Wales: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind W light, max temp 16 (15). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny intervals, a few showers; wind W moderate, max temp 16 (15).

Central Highlands, NE NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, a few showers; wind W moderate, max temp 16 (15).

South: A trough of low pressure over the SE will clear the country during the morning leaving Britain in a W airstream. A cold front will move across the country during the afternoon, bringing rain and strong winds. A cold front will move across the country during the afternoon, bringing rain and strong winds.

Portfolio

How to play - Weekly Dividend

Monday - Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize fund.

No cash prizes can be accepted for this week and must claim your prize as instructed below.

High tides

	AM	PM
London Bridge	7.57	8.27
Abbeystead	8.03	8.35
Albrighton	8.09	8.41
Beaconsfield	8.15	8.47
Camden	8.21	8.53
Canary Wharf	8.27	8.59
Canterbury	8.33	9.05
Cardiff	8.39	9.11
Cardiff Bay	8.45	9.17
Cardiff Bay	8.51	9.23
Cardiff Bay	8.57	9.29
Cardiff Bay	9.03	9.35
Cardiff Bay	9.09	9.41
Cardiff Bay	9.15	9.47
Cardiff Bay	9.21	9.53
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Cardiff Bay	15.33	16.05
Cardiff Bay	15.39	16.11
Cardiff Bay	15.45	16.17
Cardiff Bay	15.51	16.23
Cardiff Bay	15.57	16.29
Cardiff Bay	16.03	16.35
Cardiff Bay	16.09	16.41
Cardiff Bay	16.15	16.47
Cardiff Bay	16.21	16.53
Cardiff Bay	16.27	16.59
Cardiff Bay	16.33	17.05
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